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ZULULAND

A MISSION TOUR

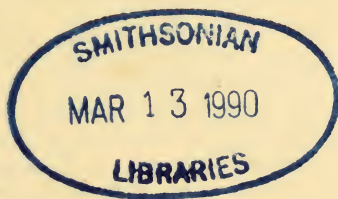
IN

SOUTH AFRICA.

BY THE

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PREFACE.

IN appearing before the public with a second work on South Africa, and once more introducing the untutored Zulu Caffre to the reader's circle of acquaintance, I ~~fair~~ would trust that I am taking a step in the right direction, however feeble, towards rescuing that noble race from the superstition of heathenism—the oppression of a lawless chieftaincy—and the open toleration of scandalous vices: which, combined, have hitherto enslaved the native African, and reduced him to the lowest grade in the human family; though endued with more than ordinary physical capabilities, and possessed of the most fertile and gorgeous regions on the habitable globe.

The reader must not, however, anticipate any wonderful explorations; or look for lion hunts, and elephant slaughters; but must be contented with the incidents and adventures of upwards of two years' mission rambles, in that portion of Zululand which now forms the British Colony of Natal. He must suppose his tent pitched with ours in the flowery glades of Southern Africa. He must join us round our bivouac fire, and at the muster of natives from some outlandish craal, or must fancy himself one of the party in our ordinary evening assembly; and then, perchance, he may find (as I have done) that the attempt to introduce the Christian faith to heathen is one of the surest means of stimulating, and enlarging, one's own. At all events he will be led to appreciate the blessings of religion, and good government, from the contemplation of the depths of abject misery to which our fellow creatures can sink, in the midst of unrivalled natural resources, when left to the unaided light of nature.

Moreover, I trust that an insight to the progress of

Colonial enterprise, on the Eastern Coast of South Africa, with a sketch of the position which a missionary occupies amongst a white population, leading an almost patriarchal life, may tend to foster a missionary spirit—not only amongst those who feel disposed to devote themselves to the mission field; but also amongst the many whose lot has been permanently cast in this our happy land, of churches, bibles, and ministers.

Once more. The reader will not fail to notice that I adhere to the original way of spelling the word Caffre; instead of adopting the new fashion (Kaffir, or Kǎfir); my reason for so doing is that neither of those words are found in any part of the native language; those titles being quite unknown to the people of South Africa. Their own designation of themselves is the “Ca-Foulah” race; that is, “Belonging to the Foulahs” or Ethiopian tribes. (See, Lat. 10° N., Long. 10° W.; and Lat. 16° S., Long. 14° E.; or again, “Soffala” Lat. 20° S., Long. 35° E.; on any ancient map.) I doubt not that our Caffres were first known to the original Dutch colonists as “Caffoulahs”—a word not altogether adapted to the Hollanders’ tongue: who would be almost certain to sound the liquid *l* as the guttural *r* or *rr*; from which, I imagine, “Caffoulah” became in time Caffurah, or Cuffur-ra, (very much as pronounced by the Boers of the present day;) and from that the English travellers arrived at the word Caffre.

I need hardly remark that the advocates for spelling the word with K (Kǎfir) must give an account for sounding *a* soft after k. There being no word in the English language that does so except Kangaroo; and, surely, it would be hardly fair to convert the polished Caffre, into an uncouth Kǎfir, merely for the sake of enrolling him in our vocabulary as the solitary companion of the kangaroo; but I will say no more.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

A Missionary's embarkation—Difficulty of working amongst crews—Melancholy loss of a Sailor—Providential supply of Rain-water—Arrival at Natal—Improvements at the Seaport—Condition of the Town Caffres—Contaminating influence of vicious Europeans—A Caffre kitchen by midnight—Civilisation on a wrong foundation.

CHAPTER II.

Sketch of proposed Mission work—Journey inland—Progress of the Coast districts—Arrival at the Capital—Condition of Maritzburg—Wanton destruction of property—State of the Church—Erection of a temporary Cottage—Commencement of Mission work—Suggestions to intending Missionaries—Description of a Caffre evening class—Need of Caffre quarters in the larger towns—The garden.

CHAPTER III.

Attacks on the poultry yard, and capture of depredators—Orthodox system of Mission Stations—Semi-Christianised Natives—Success of the Edendale Station—Progress of Bishopstowe—Need of travelling Ministers—Nature of their errand—Sketch of a hill-side Congregation.

CHAPTER IV.

Remarks on the Zulu language—Temporary work at Fort Napier—The Soldier's grave-yard—Incidents of every-day Mission life—Threatened Caffre disturbances—State of the Black population—Need of the administration of British law—Policy of the Natal Native Department—Growing independence of the leading Chiefs—Suggestions on Native management.

CHAPTER V.

Effects of a Caffre panic — Specimen of the rising generation of Natives—Christianity the true basis of Civilization—Construction of a Mission cart — Selection of draught oxen — Preliminary difficulties, and breaking in draught cattle—Visit to the Umgeni Falls—Vexatious conduct of our Native drivers.

CHAPTER VI.

Crown Reserve Lands, and Native Locations — Intercourse with Shwartz-kop Caffres — Baneful effects of Polygamy — A Missionary's ordinary routine—Proposed visit to Table Mountain—A Dutchman's orchard — African twilight in the wilderness — Encampment amidst Mountaineers—Remarkable springs on the highest lands—Reflections on the journey through life.

CHAPTER VII.

The Summit of the Table Mountain—First fruits of Mission work—A Mountain tempest — A day's journey in the rain — Sunday Bands in the Capital—Address on the subject—A Trip to Richmond—A Sunday amongst old acquaintances—Duplicity of Caffre drivers—Mimic native battle—Fording the Illovo — Practical scheme for improving the Refugees — Remarkable visitation on an intending polygamist convert.

CHAPTER VIII.

Social condition of the Refugees — Wife trading — Sketches from Colonial life—Mosquitoes and their warnings—Caffre retaliation — Sunday at an outlying farm—Moonlight Native gathering—Shelter in a goat house — Grass burning — Instances of Caffre perversity.

CHAPTER IX.

Results of the first year's work—Proposed visit to the Coast districts —A Sunday at Durban — The Umgeni fords—An African bush-road — Mishap to the wheel — Coast settlements — The Umhlali parsonage.

CHAPTER X.

Return journey to Maritzburg—Extortionate demands of a Missionary Caffre—The Isidumbeni Station—Mysterious appearance of a suspicious character—A night amongst Caffres—A morning storm under a Sycamore—The Great Nodesberg Pass—Crossing a morass—Hospitality of Colonists—Completion of the journey.

CHAPTER XI.

Return to Umhlali—More difficulties with the driver—Caffre duplicity and desertion—Continuance of the journey—Sketch of a bachelor Emigrant's hut—Incidents of the way—A cheerless night on the Nodesberg Mountains—Interview with a roaming Native—Disastrous termination of the day's work—A weather-bound Sunday under canvas—Unexpected and timely aid—Completion of the journey.

CHAPTER XII.

The Umhlali and its Native population—Sundays in South Africa—Starlight Mission work—Hints to Missionaries—Limits of an African parish—Cart rambles in the bush lands—Preaching the Resurrection—Visit to a robber craal—Guardian snakes—Encouragement to Missionaries—Prospects of the Colonial Church.

CHAPTER XIII.

Labour and Intellect—Advantage of mutual combination—A sugar-estate—Manufactory—Improved machinery—Need of Native villages—Effects of the Coolie Immigration—Cultivation of Arrow-root—Mode of preparation for market—Natal Cotton.

CHAPTER XIV.

Secret of Caffre witchcraft—Turning it to profitable account—Interview with a witch-doctor—Native deer-traps—A Christian view of European advancement—Half-enlightened Caffres, and their blighted crops—A simple leopard-trap—Caffre mode of fishing—An African sea-shore.

CHAPTER XV.

Scriptural illustrations for Mission work—Gratitude amongst Africans—Oxen and their owners—Zulu Trading—Condition of the independent Zulus—Monarchial Bees and Republican Ants—Colonial Parliaments—Effects of telegraphic communication.

CHAPTER XVI.

Colonial Churches and Schools—Night-journey to baptize an infant—A German wedding—Use of the Caffre knobkerry—Alligator tales—Threatened disturbances—Christmas and Caffre predictions—Farewell address to Colonists—Religious training and education.

CHAPTER XVII.

Quitting Natal—The Harbour and its improvements—Retrospective view of Mission work—The British Empire and its mission—The trip to Cape Town—Five weeks at the Cape—Homeward bound—St. Helena, and its associations—Untoward termination of the voyage.

ZULULAND.

CHAPTER I.

A MISSIONARY'S EMBARKATION—DIFFICULTY OF WORKING AMONGST CREWS—MELANCHOLY LOSS OF A SAILOR—PROVIDENTIAL SUPPLY OF RAIN-WATER—ARRIVAL AT NATAL—IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SEA-PORT—CONDITION OF THE TOWN CAFFRES—CONTAMINATING INFLUENCE OF VICIOUS EUROPEANS—A CAFFRE KITCHEN BY MIDNIGHT—CIVILISATION ON A WRONG FOUNDATION.

A MISSIONARY'S embarkation for a heathen land is attended with somewhat peculiar sensations. Unlike the high-spirited soldier, or the scientific traveller, or the enterprising colonist, the missionary goes forth on his Master's service without any cheering prospect of a return, at some future period, loaded with glory or enriched with gains. And yet, generally speaking, whether going abroad or returning home, the missionary is considered the happiest and most contented person on board. He sees around him the agents of civilisation, in the traveller, the soldier, and the emigrant, and considers how the wilderness is converted into a fruitful field by their labours. So he takes heart, and reflects that the missionary is the pioneer and soldier of a nobler cause, whose

reward is to behold the spiritual wilderness of heathenism reclaimed to the service of God, and made to yield the fruit of obedience and thanksgiving before the throne of the Great Creator and Redeemer of Mankind.

Nevertheless, as the missionary paces the deck of the little craft that is silently hurrying from his native land; and takes his farewell glance at the village steeples and the rustic cottages, just peeping from their wood-clad hills or grassy downs, in the distant landscape; while naught but waves and lowering clouds stretch forward from the ever-bowing bowsprit to the never-reached horizon; then it is the missionary realizes the novelty of his position; then he perceives the difference between the systematic duties of the home ministry, and the undefined responsibilities of his new charge. He is leaving a country laid out like a well-kept vineyard—with dioceses and parishes, with bishops and pastors, with churches and schools, to enter on a sphere of labour where everything has to be set on foot;—where the boundary of his district will be measured by the hundred miles; where his church must frequently be the open canopy of heaven, or the wide spread shelter of some friendly tree; where an unpretending cottage in some flowery valley, or a tent in the deep recesses of a tangled forest, must serve as a parsonage for the time being; and, very often, where the grassy slope beside some rippling rivulet must suffice as his lowly table—furnished with simple viands from the stream below, or the wood hard by, or at best from the nearest native poultry-yard.

Contemplations like these will quickly give place to anxious thoughts, as to the proper course to be pursued with respect to the rough and ready hands by whom you are surrounded;

and on whose hard work the safety of the vessel so much depends. Of course the missionary cannot close his eyes or his ears, and therefore must not keep his lips closed; though, I confess, a clergyman's position in a merchant-vessel is the most delicate post in which he can be placed. To rebuke a common man for bad language, while his superior uses the like unproved, would show partiality, and destroy the minister's influence over the crew at large; and of course he must "stand by for a squall" if he ventures to talk to an officer on such topics, before thoroughly admitted into his friendship; whereas, if he attempts to converse with the men privately, he ensures a task for the unfortunate individual with whom he happens to be speaking: who is certain to have a peremptory order to mount the tapering mast, or to "slack the weather-sheet," or "set a trysail."

However, a judicious word, or a tract, or even a lifted finger, will often suffice to silence one of those untutored brethren. And then if the missionary has a few hymn books or bibles to give away, and will ask the captain what time will be most convenient *to him* for Sunday service, and so on, he may manage to obtain a thorough hold over master and crew, without interfering at all with the working of the vessel.

I need not detain the reader with all the incidents of a three months' voyage from Liverpool to Port Natal, on the south-eastern coast of Africa—the scene of my labours in early life. Only let me mention two circumstances—the loss of a young American sailor, during a gale of wind; and the manifest interposition of Providence in sending a supply of rain-water at a most critical period.

The first melancholy event occurred only a few nights after

leaving port. It had been blowing *stiffly* all day, and towards sundown *the sea got up*, with every appearance of a rough night. Still we bore up, *close to the wind*, and sped through the angry waves with apparent indifference. At midnight the wind increased almost to a gale, and the order was given to take in sail. Then it was that poor Lewis Simpson, a youth of nineteen, from Massachusetts, was dashed from the jib-boom; and uttering one long piercing cry, as he struggled with the billows, was left far away behind, without any attempt to stop the vessel. Poor fellow! in his sea-chest they discovered a bible, and photograph of his sister, with sundry effects, which were sold by auction amongst the crew a few days afterwards—a heartless custom, and one liable to dangerous abuse in the case of a sailor being possessed of anything valuable.

The storm, which beset us during the next few days, caused the vessel to strain considerably; so much so that the briny waves, that continually poured over the bulwarks, found a way through the deck, and completely spoiled the drinking-water in the ship's tank; a misfortune that remained undiscovered so long as the water-butts on deck held out. Imagine then the consternation on board, just as we entered the tropics, at finding out the disaster. At first it was proposed to put into the Canary Isles; but the wind being adverse we kept on our original course, eking out one small keg that remained for drinking purposes; the coffee, tea, and cookery being all supplied from the tank, salt as it was, with the hope of catching rain-water nearer the equator, or else procuring a supply from a South-American port. Fortunately there were only four passengers, Mrs. M., myself, and two emigrants; for much as we felt the privation, still it would have been worse with

a larger party ; as it was, our *private stores* enabled us to do with less drink than the poor sailors ; who, besides lacking such resources, were more exposed to the heat of the sun from the nature of their work.

Anxiously we watched the distant horizon for the first sight of a cloud, but day after day elapsed and no rain came. The crew by this time began to show signs of disease, from the quantity of brackish water they drank ; and gladly listened to counsel, to put their trust in God and *pray* for relief. I think all on board prayed for rain, and at last it came ; not a passing thunder shower but a regular down-pouring, so that on stopping the scuttle-holes the decks became flooded, and thus the men were able to bale the water up in buckets ; and, what was truly remarkable, just as the thankful officers pronounced that every cask, butt, and pail was full—even to our empty wine bottles and the steward's dish tub—the clouds rolled off, the thunder died away, the flapping sails that had hung loosely from the mast during the tempest again refilled, and once more our little vessel ploughed the mighty deep, with a sufficient supply of water to last for the rest of the voyage. Surely, as David said (Psalm cvii. 23, 24), "They that go down to the sea in ships, and occupy their business in great waters ; these men see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep."

As I said, I will not trouble my readers with the thousand incidents of the voyage ; nor describe the horrors of rounding the Cape in June or July ; suffice it to say, that we arrived safely at the outer anchorage of Natal at the close of a lovely South-African Sunday ; and early next morning received a pilot from shore with a plentiful supply of fresh provisions—most opportunely, for the sand-bar of the inner harbour

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happened to be in such a dangerous state that no sailing vessel could cross : while the surf was so heavy that it was impossible for an open boat to attempt to land passengers. Consequently, as the new steam-tug had not arrived from England, we were obliged to put up with a week's knocking about, within a tantalising distance of the shore.

The day of landing at length came, and thankfully we set foot on the soil of Natal ; Mrs. M. being quite enchanted with the scenery, especially with the Bay of Natal, though I had frequently endeavoured to describe its beauty. Great improvements were being made at the landing place ; breakwaters, jetties, and the like, were being formed ; also I observed some extensive business premises that had risen up at the Point, or landing place ; and better still, a railway from the quay-side to Durban, the sea-port town, was on the point of construction.

Arriving in Durban shortly before sundown we secured a lodging for a week, and encountered a few friends ; amongst others, the excellent and benevolent pastor of the parish, who in my former visit to the colony had shown so much kindness to the poor friendless emigrants. Fortunately, I had just previously found a letter waiting at the post office ; conveying the Bishop's permission to assist any resident minister in the colony, and to work at large amongst the scattered native population : which enabled me to accept the offer of a share in the church services of the morrow. From the same friend we received every attention, and the loan of some of the Bishop's latest Caffre translations ; with which to refresh my memory, and increase my stock of knowledge in the native language : never very extensive, though sufficient to converse tolerably with *real* Zulus.

From what we saw of Durban, during the following week, it was evident that commerce was in a very flourishing condition. A great many first-class warehouses had been erected during my eight years' absence. The streets had been regularly laid out, with several attempted avenues of the Seringa-boom. One very great improvement was manifest in the improved clothing of the town Caffres; also the increased attention to flower gardens, fencing, and style of architecture, gave the place a more settled and comfortable appearance. Fruit was remarkably cheap: pine-apples of the richest description 3d. each,—lemons almost for asking; oranges, bananas, &c., were plentiful, but varying in price according to the season; Caffre poultry, principally of the Malay breed, was considered reasonable at 1s. 6d. a pair for fowls, 3s. 6d. for ducks, and 5s. for a goose. Meat had advanced rather in price, but still was very low—beef 3d. and 4d.; other descriptions 6d, superb bacon, ham, and cheese, of colonial growth, varied from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per lb. Vegetables, with the exception of sweet potatoes, were both scarce and dear; in fact, market-gardeners would make a rapid fortune near Durban; where the soil and climate are so wonderfully adapted to the growth of garden stuff.

In church matters the sea-port town had somewhat lost ground, during the temporary absence of its old minister a year or two previously, but was gradually recovering it. The original building, used for divine service, had been replaced by a commodious and substantial church; which was tolerably filled, but not by so large a congregation as I remembered in my former visit to the colony; owing probably to a congregational chapel and several others having been erected, while the parish church was unfortunately closed.

ZULULAND,

Here let me say a word on the asserted *civilisation* going on amongst the natives of Natal. No doubt the Caffres are better fed and paid than formerly. Many are engaged in different handicrafts; one or two I observed keeping stores (probably for European proprietors); so far, all well; but, unfortunately, we found the prison full of black convicts on one of our visits. Drunken natives, too, were no longer rareties. Insolence and extortion were the universal complaints of the townspeople. In fact, so far as the town Caffres were concerned, it was evident that the change on the whole, during the previous ten years, was decidedly for the worse. So much for the vaunted cry of civilisation; unless, indeed, it is the result of new habits, springing from the cravings of renewed and enlightened hearts.

A variety of causes have led to this retrograde condition of the refugee Caffres of Natal. First of all, the natives of the present day have escaped from a strict code of discipline in their own land, or rather from a state of absolute tyranny, to come into our territories; where they find laxity of law sufficient to make them lawless, and a recognition of Caffre usages enough to expose them to the indirect oppression of aspiring refugee chiefs.

Secondly, the rapidly increasing trade of the Port, the spread of sugar plantations, and the success of inland farming, especially wool growing, has created such a demand for labour, that employers are compelled to submit to annoyances and insolence from their servants, which few masters in England would tolerate for an hour. I have little doubt but that there is sufficient capital, and enterprise, in the colony to find employment for the entire native population; whereas nine out of ten Caffres are sitting smoking and

drinking at their craals, during the greater portion of the year, unclothed and half-starved.

Another evil has arisen from the insufficient supply of white labour; which, whilst it enables drunken European artizans to run riot, and yet earn a livelihood, at the same time renders it necessary to employ natives in positions wholly beyond their legitimate sphere: throwing temptations in their way, which are almost certain to entail destruction on both body and soul.

Thus, I once heard of an English mechanic so besotted that his industrious young wife was constantly in the habit of sending her Caffre wood-cutter to search the several public-houses, and bring her reeling partner home! What was the natural consequence? The drunkard began to tamper with his uncivilised guardian, giving him glass after glass of spirits, to induce him to say he had been unsuccessful in his search. So that, ere long, the poor heathen Caffre had acquired a thirst for spirits; which, I fear, will not easily be eradicated. In fact, that very native afterwards attended the evening meetings in our cottage, and ultimately entered our service, showing many happy tokens of a better day in store; but, alas! his acquired taste on one occasion got the mastery of him, to his great discomfort; for, having purchased a bottle of paint-oil, I sent him to our cottage with it and other articles. Supposing the bottle to contain spirits, he took a hasty gulp on his journey, and was on the sick-list for two or three days following.

Another misfortune, especially at the sea-port, is that employers do not, or cannot, provide accommodation for their Caffre workpeople, so as to keep them under due control after working hours. At sundown many of the

merchants ride off to their suburban villas, the stores are closed, and the Caffre attendants left to themselves till business hours next morning. Away go the Caffres; some to the shambles for meat, others to have a wash-down in the nearest stream; some to collect friends, and others to pilfer or purchase viands for the evening banquet. The largest Caffre hut in one of the back yards, or a dilapidated kitchen behind one of the stores, is generally the place of rendezvous; and thither groups of ten or twelve wend their way, shouting and brandishing their knobkerries at some imaginary foe concealed in the evening's dusk.

As soon as the place is full, then begins the cookery; with uproarious singing and merriment, relieved by occasional lulls, while the jolly fellows are smoking themselves into a state of stupidity with the poisonous root of the wild hemp; and diseussing the "Indaba," or news of the day. Not unfrequently the topic of conversation at these revels consists of imaginative slaughter of the colonists, or the eccentricities of some unpopular official. The parties seldom break up till near midnight; unless their uproar becomes so outrageous that the police interfere, and put an uncere-monious stop to further proceedings.

Such is a bare outline of refined Caffre life in the two principal towns. Whether an extension of such civilisation amongst the entire native race is desirable, seems to me quite as questionable as that the introduction of the doings and sayings of the purlieus of London, amongst the rustic population of a retired village, would tend to lighten the duties of either the village pastor or the county constable.

Possibly the shrewd critic may detect an apparent inconsistency, and say I condemn the present policy of encouraging

nine-tenths of the native population to live in idleness ; while I argue that the tithe, who do go to service, become more depraved by their intercourse with the white-man.

Well, that is just the point. To use a common expression, the Caffre servants have the whip-hand of all small employers ; and consequently of town masters more than others, because the scarcity of hands compels the master to submit to anything rather than be left Caffreless. The fellows know this, and continually are showing their power on any employers who give offence : either by forbidding the revelry in their kitchens, for punishing a thief, or dismissing an insolent servant. But observe, this could not exist with an open labour market ; and therefore one great evil arises from the mass of the population being encouraged to subsist in idleness and poverty.

Now trace the effect still further. The amount of independence, which these town labourers are able to usurp, makes them very cautious and very indifferent about working in the country ; so that the one-tenth, who do work voluntarily, are principally engaged in towns ; where, as we all know, vice is more rampant than in the country. And though I am ready to admit that the European habits, and the English language, which they gradually pick up in town service, are a counterpoise in some degree to the vices acquired at the same time ; yet, when we take into consideration that, within a month after a Caffre gets back to his craal, all his clothes are torn up and gone ; his civilisation is all forgotten, or laughed out of him by the idlers at home ; while the imported vices are greedily adopted by the wanton crew of reckless savages. Then, I say, the return of a town-servant to his native craal much resembles that of a

youth who makes his escape from a reformatory school, and takes up his abode with a family of sturdy beggars. The lessons imparted will be more how to escape justice, than to conform to the obligations of a morality for which he has no inherent respect.

For my own part, I seem to behold a chaos of confusion in the present condition of South Africa; which nothing but Christianity can correct. Religion and the Bible will alone introduce the subject of responsibility in the sight of God. And the tidings of a Saviour's love, and of a future life, will be the surest barrier against those vices that will always follow close upon the footprints of civilisation. If, however, religion can be judiciously coupled with the breaking down of some of their present barbarous usages, then the introduction of universal industry will follow as a matter of course, and will at length bring forth a genuine civilisation. The branch must bear the fruit; not the fruit the branch. And, further, we know that the branch can only bear fruit by abiding in The Vine, "*The True Vine!*"—(St. John xv. 1.)

CHAPTER II.

SKETCH OF PROPOSED MISSION WORK—JOURNEY INLAND—PROGRESS OF THE COAST DISTRICTS—ARRIVAL AT THE CAPITAL—CONDITION OF MARITZBURG—WANTON DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY—STATE OF THE CHURCH—ERECTION OF A TEMPORARY COTTAGE—COMMENCEMENT OF MISSION WORK—SUGGESTIONS TO INTENDING MISSIONARIES—DESCRIPTION OF A CAFFRE EVENING CLASS—NEED OF CAFFRE QUARTERS IN THE LARGER TOWNS—THE GARDEN.

AFTER spending a few days very agreeably in Durban, amidst the charming woodlands of the vicinity, we decided on paying a visit to the capital, Pieter Maritzburg, or Maritzburg as it is called, before fixing our quarters definitely for the eighteen months which we proposed spending in the colony.

The line of operations we had marked out was, in the first place, to hire a house, or build a temporary cottage in some central situation, where we might deposit our luggage, books, &c., and leave them in charge of a native servant while making long or short tours into the surrounding districts. Moreover I was anxious, if possible, to officiate amongst the white population at least once every Sunday. And, finally, by establishing a permanent home, were it ever so humble, we hoped to gather evening classes for Scriptural instruction from amongst the numerous working Caffres frequenting the capital; not to mention the prospective comfort of having a poultry-yard and garden for the supply of our table.

Here let me observe, we were carrying out this mission tour entirely at our own cost, from first to last; and therefore

felt at perfect liberty to adopt such plans as might seem most expedient. And although I became entitled to a crown grant of three thousand acres of land, by virtue of the passenger-regulations in force at the time, I declined accepting it; as it *professedly* necessitated a continuous residence on the spot for a period of years. The same with regard to opening a mission station, under the management of the colonial government; in which case a missionary becomes entitled to an annual stipend from the Native Reserve Fund. I felt that it would be better to attempt less, and act independently, rather than mix myself up in any way with certain officials in the civil service at Natal: with whom there was no probability of my working harmoniously, inasmuch as they seem to regard the refugee-population with the same anxious solicitude and jealousy that a patentee entertains for his discovery; or, more aptly, as a miner who discovers gold on his neighbour's property, but wishes to keep things quiet till he has got the estate into his own hands, or else secured an ample independence. So the native department at Natal props up the absolute power of chieftaincy, and prefers Caffre usages to British law, but meanwhile is steadily elbowing itself into the position formerly claimed by the chiefs; and administering justice (?) such as would make people's ears tingle in England, to the disgust of the natives and the indignation of the colonists.

There being no means of proceeding to Maritzburg except on horseback, or by one of the cumbrous colonial waggons, we determined on sending our baggage by the latter; and on taking places, so as to accompany the vehicle on foot; strolling a mile or two in advance, or lagging behind, as it suited our purpose, with the opportunity of riding when fatigued.

In this way we accomplished the journey, of sixty miles, with tolerable ease, in four days: though not without a few discomforts. One in particular was very annoying; which occurred at the close of the first day's journey, about fifteen miles from Durban; and as it illustrates the cool indifference of the native character, I will briefly describe it.

I should state, therefore, that the native in charge of the waggon proposed halting for the night at Pinetown, where he expected to take up a load of produce for the capital. Relying on this, I and Mrs. M. stopped to enjoy a ramble with a colonial gentleman, through a fine coffee, orange, and pine-apple plantation, about a mile short of the halting place; and on resuming our journey at sunset, with a bountiful supply of fruit, had proceeded but a short distance when we stumbled over our baggage, lying on the high road, with a Caffre lad keeping guard; who was instructed to say that the waggon driver had altered his destination, and accordingly had deposited our goods *there* to save further trouble! Fortunately there was a respectable hotel within a few minutes' walk, whither we transferred our scanty stock; and found comfortable quarters for the night, with a waggon proceeding twenty miles further up country about noon next day.

From Durban to this point the country bore traces of marked improvement since my previous visit to Natal. Many homesteads and sugar plantations were to be seen dotted over the landscape, to the right and left of the high road. Pinetown itself had also altered for the better, more perhaps than any place in the colony (with the exception of Verulam). Ten years previously I remember beholding the site of the present town, and then admired it in its picturesque

state of nature. Indeed, I put up a couple of deer not very far from where the magistrate's residence now stands; and saw the original founder of the town planting the four corner posts of the first dwelling-house. That structure has long since given way to a more substantial abode; and what once was a wild prairie, is now a very comfortable colonial town—turning out five-and-thirty mounted volunteer riflemen! Most of the original settlers have considerable plots of ground, and are scattered about over the extensive flat, producing large quantities of sweet potatoes, arrowroot, ground nuts, and such commodities, for the Durban market. The more recent arrivals have formed a straggling street, extending about a mile along the Maritzburg road; where they have erected a substantial church, several roadside hotels, one or two stores, and a considerable number of really comfortable villa residences, with large and productive gardens.

The night following, being moonlight, our new driver (who by-the-bye was a private gentleman) inspanned after a supper by a roadside fire, and we all travelled along very pleasantly for a considerable portion of the night. Taking leave of our agreeable companion, where he branched off from the main road, we found a night's lodging at one of the many roadside houses of refreshment; awaiting the chance of a disengaged waggon to complete the journey; and, as I before observed, arrived safely at our destination at the close of the fourth day.

We found a handsome iron suspension bridge just being erected at the entrance to the capital, on the Durban side, the original wooden structure having been swept away by a great flood a few years previously. From this point Maritzburg looks remarkably well; and we were much amused at

our driver, one of Mr. Allison's mission converts, who enquired in broken English whether England possessed such a fine town? I was somewhat surprised to find that the increase of buildings here was not in proportion to the coast towns: though business seemed to have multiplied beyond my most sanguine expectations. Most of the old names remained, and at every turn I recognised an old familiar face: some of the people albeit, had materially altered their condition. One of the first I met with was driving a carriage and pair of horses; who, when I quitted Natal, drove a vegetable barrow; another, who formerly kept a small bottle store, was a wholesale exporter of wool, ivory, &c.; in fact, from the highest to the lowest, the good people of Maritzburg appeared to have fattened considerably since their scattered township had been converted into a city, by the arrival of a Bishop and the erection of a Cathedral.

Amongst the public improvements I was much pleased to find that seven additional places of worship had been built, or were in course of completion. The first in size and importance was the Cathedral—a handsome and well-finished structure so far as it goes; which in time, when it receives transepts, a new chancel, and some sort of tower in lieu of the wooden gallows, from which a bell is suspended at present, will be an ornament to the city. The next in size, and the most complete in design, was the Episcopal Native Church; where a most devoted minister, the Rev. W. Baugh, has a tolerable congregation of natives, just emerging from barbarism, and where he holds open school every night in the week. The third was a small church called St. Andrew's, for the convenience of the townspeople in the suburbs, of which Mr. Baugh is also incumbent. The fourth was the Garrison Chapel, a

substantial stone edifice, the original building having been destroyed by lightning just as I was previously leaving the colony. Next a large church-looking edifice, with square tower, built by the Scotch Presbyterians; and a red brick building, nearly finished, for the Free Church. And, lastly, a first-class Wesleyan Chapel, a really handsome structure, but spoiled in the roofing. The only other buildings worth notice were the new Grey Hospital, a handsome city bank, and a very extensive flour-mill turned by the town river.

All travellers are struck with the beautiful situation of Maritzburg, but as I have described it already in a former work, it is only necessary to say that the increased attention to planting ornamental trees, and the extension of rose fences, with the formation of scattered homesteads on the surrounding townlands, has in no way diminished the rural appearance of this overgrown village, which is at once the metropolis and the city of the colony. Nor was there any lack of employment—English artizans, of every class, were in good demand, and obtained high wages; while at least a thousand young natives, between the ages of sixteen and twenty, were employed by the month; to say nothing of the hundreds of women and girls who obtained a livelihood by bringing wood, corn, and native poultry from the Shwartz-kop Location, and other native villages, to sell amongst the good citizens: affording us a promise of abundant mission work, and a most favourable opening for sending the good tidings of a better world into the districts immediately bordering on the capital.

On visiting the orchard in the Vley, where I and my brother resided during my previous visit to Natal, we found the place a complete wreck. The woodwork of the house had been carried off, the walls knocked down, the fruit trees

(with one exception) all cut off at the roots, and the fences destroyed for fuel ! In like manner, a field on the opposite side of the city, which we had let to the same tenant, had been converted into a wilderness, the man having abandoned a comfortable position at Natal for the chances of the Australian diggings during the gold mania. Some thousands quitted the colony at that period ; but as most of them have found their way back, I doubt not he will in due time—rich enough, I hope, to pay fifty odd pounds, owing for rent at the period of his migration.

The situation of this orchard being well adapted to our purpose, we determined on building a temporary boarded cottage thereon ; especially as house rent was very high, and the planking of the cottage would be worth nearly as much at the end of the eighteen months as its original cost. Besides, we should be within ten minutes' walk of the centre of the town, though quite in the suburbs ; surrounded on three sides by gardens, and bounded on the fourth by the town grazing lands—another important consideration, as we should require draught cattle for the travelling mission cart we were about procuring.

It was drawing towards the close of the week ; we therefore decided on taking lodgings for a fortnight, and making preparation for the commencement of a small boarded cottage on the Monday. For this purpose, we engaged a couple of handy Caffre lads ; purchased about fifteen hundred feet of planking, some plain tiles, and verandah posts ; ordered four long glass doors (to dispense with windows), and assured our friends that we should have a comfortable cottage built within the fortnight.

Having been asked to take the morning duty at the small church (St. Andrew's), and to preach at the cathedral in the

evening of the following Sunday, I had an opportunity of observing the condition of the church in the capital; and was sorry to find it had made but little, if any, progress. St. Andrew's certainly was pretty well attended; but it is a very small building, not calculated to hold more than a hundred. The cathedral had about a hundred and fifty of all classes—principally officials, and their families. Where were the fifteen hundred shopkeepers, artizans, and other white inhabitants of the town? The same afternoon we visited the native service, conducted by the Rev. Mr. Baugh, in the Episcopalian Chapel; where we found about forty "Mac-cowas" or well-dressed Caffres: who joined in the singing and prayers, with much apparent earnestness.

Of course it would not be considered consistent with a clergyman's profession, in England, to preach one day and build his own house the next. But in the colonies, from the bishop downwards, ministers of the gospel have to turn their hands to almost anything, for their own service; whether it be in stabling a horse, cooking a dinner, or putting up their own temporary dwelling-house. For my own part, I considered it a matter of necessity, and set to work accordingly.

The plan of our proposed cottage was extremely simple; consisting merely of a sitting-room about ten feet square, a bedroom not quite so large, and a pantry about ten feet by five, with a broad verandah running all round to be planted with fast-growing creepers; which, with a detached brick kitchen for the Caffres, and a summer-house for a dining-room and study, embraced the full extent of our requirements. And though, of course, the whole was not completed in the fortnight; yet we had so far proceeded with the two dwelling-rooms, as to be able to occupy them at the expiration

of that period. By the end of three months, however, we had things pretty well in order; painted, papered, baized, and quite as comfortable as anyone need wish for a temporary habitation.

One Sunday morning (before we had fitted a lock on the house-door), we were rather concerned at the movements of a suspicious-looking European stranger; especially as there was a good deal of loose property lying about, and I had engaged to take a Sunday duty at some distance. It occurred to me, however, that by dangling a pair of trouser-legs over the sofa, with boots to match, and a curtain to conceal the rest, we might successfully alarm any intruder in the event of his succeeding in opening the door: which I screwed up, as well as I could, with two or three gimlets. It turned out that our precautions were very opportune; for we discovered the door open on our return in the afternoon, though nothing was missing.

At the period of our arrival at Natal, the dry season was within a few weeks of its conclusion. And to attempt any distant mission excursions, until the first burst of the vernal storms had expended their force, was hardly prudent; as the numerous rivers, which intersect the colony in all directions, are very much swollen at that time of year, and are often impassable. We, therefore, commenced work amongst the town Caffres, almost immediately after taking up our abode in the Verandah Cottage, by gathering a few together of an evening in the little parlour, and by conversing with the strings of native women—previously mentioned as being sent into the town to sell bundles of firewood, baskets of Indian corn, fowls, fruit, and potatoes.

Our first two Caffre youths proved useless for mission pur-

poses; we therefore dismissed them, and engaged a stout young fellow of about twenty-five: who fell into the work with great zeal, and quickly learnt the Lord's Prayer (in Caffres), quite perfectly. He also sought out eight or ten half-brothers, and brought them to the cottage meetings. They all wished to enter our service; but that being out of the question, I selected two of them and broke up an acre or two of land to plant with corn. The others soon found work in different parts of the capital, and every evening brought some of their fellow-workmen down with them to our place of gathering.

As an inducement to acquire The Lord's Prayer, The Creed, and The Ten Commandments, we gave a prize of three-pence to any of the regular attendants, directly they succeeded in repeating each of those three forms without mistake. And most strongly can I recommend the plan to any young missionary, especially with regard to the Lord's Prayer, as the different sentences of that divine petition afford a ready handle to nearly all the leading doctrines of our faith. First of all the native enquires where the prayer came from? You answer, God's only Son came down and gave it to us. Then he wants to know how God is his father? You point to Adam and Eve before the fall, and the degraded heathen readily agrees that God *was their Father!* Again you point to those parents cast out of Paradise, and cut off from God by their own transgression. He sees that God is still the Father, the Author, and Supporter of his rebellious children; but that those children have forfeited the privileges of their sonship! Very well. Then you have only to proclaim the office of Jesus Christ, as being the Son of that offended God, coming down with a

message of pardon to sinful men; and to show how deep the offence, to point out the costly penalty of the trespass paid by the Son of God Himself; wherefore, as that trespass is now cancelled, the returning prodigal has only to embrace the offer, and have God for his father in heaven. And similarly with the other clauses.

Let me here give an insight to one of these cottage gatherings. You must suppose yourself sitting with us in a little square room, nicely papered, with a board ceiling under the tiled roof, with folding glass doors opening into a verandah covered with creepers, and shaded by a broad-spread African standard peach tree. Then you must suppose yourself very tired (for missionaries always are by sundown), and must picture yourself getting tea, at a home-made table, surrounded by furniture of like construction. Next you must listen to the jabbering of a dozen tongues in a neighbouring kitchen; and to the chorus of a troop of chaunting Caffres, coming down from their work in the town. All will go on thus till darkness has fairly set in; when a gentle tap at the door, followed by three words—"Caffoola foonah insonda" (the Caffres want their hymn), warns you to put the sugar out of sight, and bid the attendant clear away for service.

On lighting the lamp, your little room will have assumed a very different aspect. Squatting, knees and nose together, in regular rows all over the floor, wrapped up in cotton blankets, with curled woolly heads, sparkling eyes, and snow-white teeth, will be a houseful of grinning Caffres, perfectly mute, and waiting to greet you with "Sackaboni Umfundise—Sackaboni Missees" (Good evening, teacher—Good evening, mistress.)

This over, and any stranger introduced specially, the service will begin with a Caffre chaunt—expressing the leading sentences of our *Te Deum*, repeated over and over again for some minutes with perfect musical precision, and in every variety of key, to one of the simple English chaunts. After a brief pause, I usually read to them a chapter from the Bishop's newly-printed gospels; or else translated, as well as I could, one of the miracles, or parables, from the English testament; following it up by a brief explanation and exhortation, or by answering the numerous questions which one or other of the listeners was sure to raise. We then all joined in one of the Bishop's hymns, in praise of the Trinity, set to the tune of "Greenland's Icy Mountains"—a favourite air with the Caffres: whose lusty chorus could be plainly distinguished for half a mile! After this we catechised for a short time in the Lord's prayer, &c., followed by another hymn, and concluded by prayer.

Occasionally we lengthened the visit, after the service, by explaining simple astronomical and geographical lessons; and I need hardly say there was quite a shout of exultation when I showed them how to account for Sunrise, Noon, and Night; by means of a suspended pumpkin to represent the earth, with a tiny insect on it to represent man, and the globular lamp for the sun! But when, on another occasion, I illustrated the changes of the moon, I established a lasting reputation amongst these quick and keen-witted children of the wilderness.

The morning service was merely an abridgement of the above, so as to limit it to a quarter of an hour. And it is a fact, worthy of notice, that so far from making these Caffres less attentive to their daily duty, their steady

industry became so clearly noticeable that masters were continually applying to have Caffres recommended to them ; and, moreover, frequently offered advanced wages to induce *our lads* to leave their place ; necessitating an increase on our part to prevent the breaking up of the family party, before our experimental system had well taken root.

I cannot help thinking that a mission station established on the municipal lands, about a mile from the city, where labouring Caffres could have a hut to themselves, and a little garden plot, with the advantages of Christian teaching, would rapidly and effectually alter the character of this important class of young native men ; who, as I showed in the previous chapter, are at present left to sink into the depths of vice and depravity, when not actually at work for their town employers. The corporations of either of the two principal towns are deeply sensible of the evils arising from the present system ; and I doubt not they would readily grant the requisite land, or sell it on very reasonable terms.

I should have mentioned that, from the first day of our arrival in the capital, we directed our attention to the restoration of the garden. Every morning I took the spade for a couple of hours before breakfast ; so that, with the assistance of our Caffres, we soon had a good kitchen garden in perfect order. One morning, I remember, the moon shone so brightly, that I imagined the day was just breaking ; but, after digging a long two hours, discovered by referring to my watch that it still wanted a like interval to sunrise. In Natal, a garden is a superlative boon ; as vegetables are not to be bought, though you can produce in the open air nearly every kind of fruit and vegetable. We had green peas for

the table the whole year through—cucumbers, melons, and marrows grew with scarcely any care, beyond a shelter from the noon-day sun, and an abundant supply of water.

Of course, after the havoc committed amongst the numerous peach, apple, fig, cherry, and other trees, no fruit was to be expected in our own orchard; though the lack was readily supplied by purchasing of the Caffres, sent round the town by persons who had a superabundance—a vocation that holds out strong temptations to dishonesty. And, worse than all, where fashionable masters teach their servants deception by ordering them to give a wrong address to avoid detection.

CHAPTER III.

ATTACKS ON THE POULTRY YARD, AND CAPTURE OF DEPREDATORS—
ORTHODOX SYSTEM OF MISSION STATIONS—SEMI-CHRISTIANISED
NATIVES—SUCCESS OF THE EDENDALE STATION—PROGRESS OF
BISHOPSTOWE—NEED OF TRAVELLING MINISTERS—NATURE OF
THEIR ERRAND—SKETCH OF A HILL-SIDE CONGREGATION.

I OBSERVED, previously, that travelling is scarcely practicable at Natal during the height of the rainy season; and, consequently, that we determined to limit our operations, during the first three or four months, to the capital and its immediate vicinity. It happened that we had an unusual amount of rain and thunder that year; so that I had plenty of time, at home, to construct a poultry yard, and to prepare a substantial enclosure for the oxen; which in due course were to drag us and our proposed mission cart.

One night, while the fowl-house was in course of erection, and at a time when our stock of poultry was not very extensive, a large wild cat, called a "tiger-cat," came down from the hills to our temporary roost, and carried off a fine Malay fowl: notwithstanding that I heard the commotion, and instantly turned out to the rescue. So terrified were the remainder, that, on the following evening, they all sought refuge *in* or *on the top* of the cottage, rather than return to their own domicile, from which I concluded that another visit was to be apprehended; indeed, the Caffres told us that, once having got the taste, the depredator would not cease till it had destroyed the whole stock.

Alarmed at this intelligence, we procured a packing-case, and fixed a very heavy log of wood to the lid; which we propped up at an angle of forty-five degrees, by means of a slender rod connected with the bait by a string—running through a loop at the bottom of the case; the least tug at which caused the lid to fall, either crushing the enemy, or making him a close prisoner. This trap we placed near the former roost, and about midnight the fall of the lid announced the capture of the intruder—one of the largest tiger-cats I saw in the colony. You can imagine the surprise of the Caffres on seeing it dead next morning! They dressed the skin for us very nicely.

To guard against further losses, and at the same time to preserve our own and neighbour's garden from the fowls, we enclosed the yard with lattice work of bamboo and stout Spanish reeds, and built a small brick house adjacent that could be securely closed at night. But even thus we were not permitted to remain undisturbed. Night after night the lattice work was torn down for the sake of the thong with which it was lashed together.

Suspecting a neighbour's dog, I begged the favour of having him chained up; but the owner was so confident of the integrity of his favourite hound that he would not hear of such an arrangement. I therefore decided on employing the aforesaid trap; intending to catch poor "Don," and restore him alive to his incredulous owner. Everything being prepared for the occasion, I listened anxiously for the trap to fall; but heard nothing. In the morning we discovered that the bait had been carried off, and that the trap was down, but nothing within. On examination, it appeared the thief had only got half into the case; and had effected his

escape with the loss of a handful of shaggy hair or bristles, which certainly did not belong to the suspected hound, and which the Caffres declared came from the back of a wolf ! Indeed, as during my former residence in Maritzburg, the howling of wolves might frequently be heard round about the suburbs just before daybreak.

What the trap failed to do my rifle effected the following night, though in a most unsportsmanlike manner ; namely, by placing the loaded piece in the gap torn in the lattice work, with a slice of meat on the muzzle connected with the trigger by a string, so that escape was impossible. We found a middle-sized short-eared wolf lying dead within a foot of the rifle. I could not prevail on the Caffres to dress this skin.

These two severe lessons were not sufficient to protect the fowl-house ; until a second large tiger-cat had been caught in the trap, and a smaller one had been killed by a Caffre in broad daylight. Even then another tormentor waged war with our cackling bipeds, which also turned out to be a small she-wolf. This last nearly escaped, being caught under a wash-tub in the verandah ; and, being too tall for her cage, when she stood up the tub did not touch the ground ; but directly she stooped, it dropped too and prevented her escape ; till I was able to weight it down, and secure the assistance of "Don's" master in destroying the dangerous visitor.

Here let me change the subject for one more in character with my calling. Most of my readers are aware that heathen missions are generally carried on by means of stations ; where several ministers under one head locate themselves permanently, on a large tract of land, with a view of

inducing heathen natives to attend their schools and Sunday services. These they gradually draw around them, and help to civilize by teaching trades; or by encouraging them to clothe, buy waggons, build cottages, plant gardens, and by other praiseworthy means. Large numbers of people are naturally attracted to such stations by the prosperity always resulting from a combined association. The very fact of the mission property being exempted from the tyranny of the petty chiefs alone is a great recommendation. The missionary himself becomes a sort of chief, whose clan is continually being recruited from various tribes. And, in this manner, most of the mission stations soon become strong enough to hold their own against any of the individual tribes by whom they are surrounded.

Now, in the colony of Natal, there are some fifteen or twenty of these stations belonging to different denominations; and I can imagine that up to a certain point their labours, in the way of civilisation, will be attended with success. But, at the same time, I cannot help thinking that too great stress is laid on the inculcation of a spirit of trade; instead of providing facilities for raising up a landed proprietary amongst the more prosperous converts. It seems to me very like the mania for teaching Latin and Greek, in our home schools, to boys who cannot write a plain letter in their mother tongue. So these half-clad, half-civilised, half-Christianised Caffres are found rambling all over the colony with their waggons; trading with their heathen brethren, and buying up corn to carry and resell in the colonial markets, instead of settling down to become model cultivators of the soil after the European fashion.

Now I leave it to the candid consideration of any missionary

to decide whether it would not be better to have these people quietly engaged in agricultural pursuits, under their pastor's immediate eye, than to have them roving the country at large. To-day squeezing the last bushel of grain out of some half-famished family, for a string of trumpery beads—(sold, by-the-bye, *not to them*, but to their head-man); to-morrow dealing out scant measure, or like abominations, to their European customers; and the next day drinking and carousing, at the roadside house, over their ill-gotten gains! There is no denying the fact, that it is impossible to deal with these Mission-Caffres without being cheated! As to receiving any little courtesy from them, such as any heathen readily shows to a stranger, why they would never dream of it under a shilling or half-a-crown!

One fellow I remembered seeing on the road with his mission waggon loaded with planks, going down from a European saw-mill to the port for shipment. The same afternoon, I found him hawking a single plank about the town on his head for sale at half price. He offered it to me and a young clergyman with whom I was conversing in the street; and I immediately wrote the address of an active policeman, advising him to seek a customer in the person referred to on the card. The fellow, however, read it, laughed, returned the card, and sold his plank to an Englishman—a local preacher close by!

Of course, we cannot altogether condemn the missionaries for the faults of their people; neither can we throw the responsibility on their shoulders of providing such suitable plots of ground for their respective converts, as would induce them to settle down and follow agricultural pursuits; since, I believe, with but one single exception, those missionaries

are not in a position to give a *legal title* to any plot of ground they may wish to convey to a convert. And, as we all know, it is utterly hopeless to expect people to enclose, plant, cultivate, and improve lands, of which they have no certain tenure.

The single exception, to which I have here alluded, is the Rev. Mr. Allison; formerly the head of the Wesleyan Mission Station, on the river Illovo. That gentleman, and several hundred of his native flock, appear to have discovered the difficulty of carrying out a successful mission under the ordinary system; to remedy which they combined, on the principle of English land societies, and purchased a six-thousand acre farm, within a few miles of Maritzburg. Thither they removed in a body, and opened an independent station, under the title of the Edendale Mission. And, at the present moment, these enterprising people have their substantial stone dwellings, and well ploughed fields, with the power of buying or selling at pleasure. They have also erected a church, school-house, and watermill. Every day witnesses the arrival of waggon loads of Edendale produce at the Maritzburg market.* It is quite a sight to see the waggons returning, on a summer's evening, packed with the wives and families of these Edendale Caffres; all clad in British manufactured goods, and carrying on their countenances an unmistakeable air of contentment and joyous prosperity. And in the event of future troubles with our unsettled

* Certain unprincipled parties are continually circulating reports that this station has turned out a complete failure. I was much grieved to hear the news on my arrival at Maritzburg, but soon found it to be utterly groundless. The same reports have been industriously circulated in other quarters likely to reach England.

refugee hordes—at present located on the Crown reserved lands—I can readily imagine that a settlement, like the Edendale station, with its numerous Christian population, would be of infinite service in the protection of the capital. It would be well if there were half-a-dozen such ; forming an outlying but unpassable barrier round the commercial centre of the colony.

At an equal distance, on the opposite side of Maritzburg, the Bishop of Natal has fixed his residence, and established a mission station on a valuable six-thousand acre farm, with the appropriate title of Bishopstowe. His lordship has opened some extensive and highly-useful training-schools, for the sons of the Caffre chiefs at present taking refuge with their tribes in Natal. There are also a considerable number of adult natives connected, more or less, with the institution ; indeed, on one occasion I saw the little chapel closely packed with men, women, and children ; and, I believe, arrangements are in progress to afford the converts an opportunity of acquiring land and cottages in connection with the mission. Why should not mission property be leased out, at a low annual rental, to natives desirous of settling round a station ; subject, in the first instance, to the condition of their being approved converts ; and, secondly, to a renewal of their leases, on reasonable terms, every ten or fifteen years ?

Bishopstowe is the only mission station of any extent, belonging to the Church of England, actually *within* the colony. The Rev. Mr. Robertson *had* a small station on the coast, but he has since removed into the Zulu country. And, again, on the south-western frontier, a small but flourishing station was on the point of being opened, in connection with

our church, by the Rev. Mr. Callaway: so that the reader may imagine there is still great scope for extended mission operations, amongst the quarter of a million heathen Caffres now resident at Natal; nine-tenths of whom have never heard of a living God, and think that the world is governed by a species of witchcraft; who have never heard of a resurrection, but think the spirit of a departed brother is converted into a snake, to hover about the abode of its former relatives and act the part of a guardian angel!

Now, without for a moment calling in question the importance of the station system, in general, still it always strikes me as being miserably incomplete: without any staff of itinerant ministers, to go forth into the recesses of the native strongholds; and there to proclaim the message of good tidings amongst the old and young, the headstrong and the timid, to the rude but daring warriors, and to their mothers, wives, and children.

For, at present, who are the people that avail themselves of the station? Not the upper classes (so to speak) of the tribes; not the women; not the young men! No; but the hangers on, as it were—men and their families who belong to no tribe; or else families who, having displeased their petty chief, have managed to sheer off before the hired poisoner performs his mysterious task. To these people the stations are a convenient refuge—just as they are a sort of school for some few young men desirous of acquiring European handicrafts—though, for actual mission work, such people furnish the most obdurate materials that a missionary can possibly fall in with; whereas, away from stations, the scattered Caffre population have no more idea of the object, and high calling, of the resident missionary than a Cambridgeshire

ploughboy has of the duties and responsibilities of a College Tutor, or University Don.

I will therefore mention here, once for all, that in the mission rambles we proposed making, in various directions, our object was to visit, as far as possible, some of those scattered craals, or groups of huts, which, from their remote situation, were beyond the reach of any of the stationary missionaries. We proposed going amongst these heathen people with an avowed object—to tell them we came with a message from God, and should probably come again no more; to declare to them God's revelation about the resurrection; to draw their attention to the subject of the great judgment books, with the Lamb's book of life; and, finally, to make known the good tidings of salvation by faith in the name, and by the atonement, of Jesus Christ.

Wherever we travelled, and came in contact with natives who were inclined to converse (and Caffres are never backward in getting into a gossip), we made a point of introducing this our errand; though, in assembling the people of a native craal, of course more ceremony had to be gone through; in order to gather them together in the first place; and, secondly, to solemnize their minds, and show them that our errand was not connected with traffic. In the latter case we generally commenced with singing, and illustrated the different statements by a reference to my pocket bible—a great curiosity amongst them—always concluding with prayer.

By the way, some of these native gatherings, in the remote and unfrequented districts, have been very interesting. The first parley with the head man of the craal—his summons to the common people—the arrangement of a log for Mrs. M., one for me, and one for himself—the half-amused and half-

pettish look of the aged “umdodies” or married men, as they squatted round in rings—the outside tier of boys and girls—the group of young warriors leaning on their spears hard by, with dogs and shields, too proud to listen, yet too inquisitive to forego the novel gathering—the string of “entombies” or unmarried girls claiming kindred with Mrs. M., the first English lady that had come to teach them at their rude craals—and the half crazy capers of the old women, who giggled and laughed, and peeped from behind the nearest bushes or enclosures at the unwonted spectacle—would, I think, if combined with the scenery of the country, furnish a striking subject for the artist’s pencil.

The reader will therefore pardon me for not referring to the same thing, over and over again, at every place visited. Having given the general outline, I will endeavour hereafter to confine my remarks to the incidents connected with our rambles—the description of particular localities—the narration of interesting facts connected with the colony—and a review of those points in the native character and customs which require especial reformation, before the principles of religion can gain any permanent hold on the masses of the people.

CHAPTER IV.

REMARKS ON THE ZULU LANGUAGE — TEMPORARY WORK AT FORT
NAPIER—THE SOLDIER'S GRAVEYARD—INCIDENTS OF EVERY-DAY
MISSION LIFE—THREATENED CAFFRE DISTURBANCES—STATE OF
THE BLACK POPULATION — NEED OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF
BRITISH LAW—POLICY OF THE NATAL NATIVE DEPARTMENT—
GROWING INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEADING CHIEFS—SUGGESTIONS
ON NATIVE MANAGEMENT.

IN the latter part of the previous chapter I rather forestalled the subject of our narrative. Returning to our humble mission cottage, I should observe that the four months spent in the capital, before embarking in any systematic mission tours, were by no means lost time; as, during the whole of that period, we were acquiring daily additions to the stock of Caffre words already in my possession. In fact, our regular nightly class meetings soon recalled numerous words to my memory that had quite slipped away during my Cambridge University course; so that, with the assistance of any lad who was accustomed to my daily conversation, I could convey the meaning of an ordinary chapter, without using the Bishop's translations. Indeed I could never succeed in keeping the people's attention while reading from the translated version—possibly from my not understanding the official dialect, in which all publications are now made—the language familiar to me being that used by the Zulus, rather than the dialect spoken by the Cape Colony Caffres.

In adopting the latter, no doubt, the Bishop has been guided by one of the chief clerks in the native department; who was born and reared amongst the Cape Colony Caffres, and, consequently, prefers it to learning Zulu proper; which, of course, is held in contempt by all officials, and sneeringly called "Kitchen Kaffir." The difference in dialect, however, is the least part of the matter, as the older natives are familiar with all the neighbouring idioms. What, however, most puzzles them and me is the introduction of words that are neither Caffre, Latin, Greek, nor English—such as *ewini* for *wine*, *ehoshe* for *horse*; also the introduction of the Latin termination for datives and ablatives, as *Pontio Pilato*, by "*Pontius Pilate*;" and, indeed, I might say the entire construction of the printed language; which is an ingenious attempt to carve a grammatical system, all at once, out of a tongue wild by nature, without even a native alphabet. The reader must have a specimen to appreciate fully the beauty of the attempted grammar: where the word pronounced *umslarti* is written *umhlali*; *engwarti*, the Bible, is written *incwadi*; and generally where *hl* is pronounced as the letters *sl*, *a* as *ar*, *e* as *a*, *i* as *e*, &c., &c.; effectually preventing any uninitiated people from reading a chapter to their heathen servants or workmen in the evening, or on the Sabbath, a thing that might have been systematically enforced from the pulpit as a Christian duty, if the Scripture had been printed in a form understood by the laity at large.

Moreover, during a considerable portion of that period, my time was somewhat taken up with the regiment in garrison at the citadel. The first six weeks I took spiritual charge gratuitously for the chaplain, who was pre-

paring to quit the colony; and afterwards I was requested to do so, officially, for a few weeks, until a permanent chaplain could be procured. It happened to be the identical regiment, the 45th, some of the men of which shewed so much attention to the Minerva's shipwrecked emigrants, several years previously, and also to our own party while we lay encamped in tents near the Point, watching for any of our property from the wreck. My altered appearance prevented their recognising me: though I sometimes fancied I could recollect the manly countenances of our former friends in need; and, if it had been compatible with our intended rambles, I should have liked a much longer ministry amongst them.

Their regimental school, for soldier's children, was largely attended by a sturdy race of boys and girls; and, having had some experience in public instruction, I may safely say, that not only was it by far the best school in Natal (as far as real education went), but one of the best of its kind I ever entered.

Unfortunately the military hospital was very full, principally slight cases from fatigue, the regiment having had a hundred mile march, with a month under canvas at the sea-port, expecting the arrival of another regiment to relieve them. Only three cases were serious—one, a Cape Corps man, who fell and broke a blood vessel while cutting timber; the other two poor fellows were suffering from dysentery. All three cases eventually proved fatal, though only one during my ministry at the camp. Allow me to add, that neither of us are altogether novices in house-to-house visiting: yet, nowhere have we met with more signs of real Christian principles than we used to

find amongst the inmates of the military hospital. The care and gentle treatment of the attendants; the soothing and cheering conversation of the convalescent towards their weaker comrades; and, above all, the willingness, not to say anxiety, of the men to read the Scriptures and religious tracts to the cases most needing attention, impressed us strongly, that with all the faults of the British soldier, there is still much to be admired, and much more to be thankful for.

The soldiers' grave-yard, wherein the first poor fellow was laid, is situated in the elbow of a range of grassy hills about a mile and a half from the city, and a mile from the camp. It is a square of about an acre, banked in with a stout rampart and ditch. Ornamental trees and shrubs, with geraniums and beautiful flowers, contrast forcibly with the silent lifeless monuments that mark the resting places of the sleeping dead.

At sundown the funeral procession left the fortress. How sad and how plaintive were the soul-melting strains of the shrill-wailing fifes and deeply-muffled drums! And, O, pine not for tidings ye loved ones at home; for his spirit is hovering, you know not how near; though its framework lies sleeping on Afric's far shores.

One Sunday evening, about ten days later, after preaching at the cathedral, the cool night breeze seemed so inviting that I and Mrs. M. rambled over the hills, by clear moonlight, to pay a visit to the solitary grave-yard: little thinking that, only an hour or two previously, the second poor fellow had been laid beside his departed comrade by the new chaplain. The third man lived for some time, and reached the sea-port on his way to England; and there ended his course. May they all have found peace (as only each of us can) by seeking

it while the hand of God was stretched out for their deliverance, and while the gospel message invited them to accept that extended hand!—thanks to the reconciliation wrought by Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and Man.

Just as our evening gatherings of natives began to flourish most, an event took place which gave us great grief. The youngest of the three brothers working for us—a remarkably tender-hearted lad of about fourteen—was one who (I have little hesitation in saying) was almost persuaded to be a Christian. Alas, poor fellow! he yielded to temptation, and stole some files from our tool bag for another brother: who made a living by manufacturing and selling assegais, or javelins. At first he denied the theft, and said he purchased the files at a store, but finally confessed his fault and begged to be forgiven. To mark the offence, without showing personal feeling, we paid him off; but allowed him to live with our servants till he succeeded in meeting with a new master, which he shortly did; and it is worthy of remark that though he seldom missed our week-day or Sunday services, in his new employment, yet that he no longer raised his head or sang with his wonted spirit, though we endeavoured to cheer him as much as possible.

Shortly afterwards the eldest brother was offered an extra shilling a month, by a discharged soldier, and as we declined a further rise of wages, he bade us farewell. Poor fellow! from that day he scarcely ever had time to come near our cottage; and, at the close of his month, we found him sitting on the door-sill suffering from a severe accident, by which he had lost an eye. Bitterly he deplored the extra shilling, and sadly he pointed to the clothes he had earned by prize money while with us—all tattered and dirty.

As the poor fellow was broken-hearted, and too ill to seek employment, we endeavoured to persuade him to enter the extensive Caffre hospital, founded by Sir George Grey while on a visit from his own colony. But, like Caffres in general, he would not hear of the hospital or the Government relief: preferring his miserable bed in a tumble-down hovel, at a little distance from our abode, where we attended him till well enough to return to his remote dwelling under the Drakensberg Mountains.

The unusual wetness of the season produced a deal of low fever, or rather rheumatic feverishness, amongst the town Caffres. And, no wonder! for sleeping, as they do, on the damp ground, with nothing but a thin strip of matting between them and the earth, the only wonder is that any of them escape severe illness. At their native craals the hut floors are hardened, and prepared expressly by a laborious process, to prevent the damp from rising through; besides that they are always built on a slope, and surrounded by a small trench to carry off the rain; whereas the huts in town are constructed more with a view to hold the largest possible party of beef eaters, at their night's carousal, than to secure either health or comfort. The illness was not infectious, and as we were generally applied to, we prescribed a large mustard poultice, followed by a plentiful supply of hot tea, or wine and water, and concluded with a forced perspiration by wrapping in a woollen blanket: a course that invariably gave relief in a few hours, though the effects of the attack left weakness for some time. Here, again, we found it utterly useless to persuade the people to avail themselves of the hospital, simply because it was connected with Government: so distrustful have they become of the native department at

Natal; and I perceive, from recent papers, that it has been proposed to convert the building into a public college.

Of course, we had no difficulty in replacing the two servants; as our Caffre kitchen had become quite a home for natives entering the town, in search of employment; a thing we rather encouraged; as our orchard garden, of an acre and three-quarters, afforded a plentiful supply of food; besides which, we were planting an acre or two with Indian corn, for the like purpose, on the opposite side of the town. The one remaining Caffre brother had a great taste for refinement, being a most polished gentleman in his doings and sayings. He was, too, a very fine man, of about six feet; and though he had quite recently arrived in the colony, quickly acquired a deal of English, and devoted every spare moment to study. Every shilling he earned he also laid by towards a projected visit to England, instead of paying it over to the head man of his father's clan. Poor fellow, he was summoned home to his craal; and, it appears, was killed in battle or by treachery!

A trifling incident nearly brought about a native insurrection at this period. To explain the origin I must refer the reader to a fearful epidemic that, for some years past, has been sweeping off the herds of Caffres and colonists alike. A curious remedy was discovered by an English colonist, namely,—of inoculating sound oxen with virus taken from a diseased beast; and, strange as it may appear to inoculate *the tail* for a disease of *the lungs*, yet the result justified the means in that case; as half the cattle operated on invariably were saved; whereas all were formerly lost, when once the disease appeared amongst a herd. Though, I ought to add, the process of inoculation is followed by excruciating agony

to the poor beast, and the tail invariably rots off where lanced.*

Now, on the arrival of intelligence that the small-pox had broken out in the Cape colony; the native department, with the best possible motive, issued a general order that every Caffre, within the colonial borders, was to be vaccinated forthwith. As usual, under the existing arrangements, the order went to the white magistrates of the several native locations; thence it was communicated to the various chiefs within their respective jurisdiction; (on the supposition, of course, that the latter would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity to preserve their people). Not so, however; the chiefs, guided by their "witch-doctors," (or properly speaking practised poisoners), took fright; and confounding vaccination with inoculation for the lung sickness—inasmuch as the virus came from cattle in both cases—instantly issued a counter order to their people, all over the colony, forbidding vaccination, and circulating the alarming report that their vaccinated arms would all rot off, like the tails of the oxen; by which means, they said, Government was anxious to deprive them of their left arm, on which the shield is carried in battle.

Nothing could exceed the consternation of the unfortunate natives; especially those employed on the farms, and in the towns. In Maritzburg, alone, there were many hundreds engaged by the month; and the report got abroad that

* By performing the operation when the cattle are a few months old, and comparatively valueless, the loss is now very much reduced, though unprincipled traders are continually pawning off uninoculated cattle by chopping the tail off with a hatchet, to have the appearance of inoculation without the risk.

Government intended to commence operations on them. A great number came down to our cottage to know what it meant; as the mass of town Caffres intended to make a moon-light run away, at a preconcerted moment. To these we explained the real nature of vaccination; showed them the mark on our arms; offered to be operated on at the same time with themselves; and publicly promised the house we occupied, as a compensation to any one of them whose arm should come off under the medical treatment.

Finding that explanations and remonstrances were all in vain, I mentioned the projected Exodus to one or two of the leading employers, in order that steps might be taken to avert the disaster; but it was too late; for, a night or two afterwards, while the masters fancied their work-people all safe in their kitchens and craals, the movement began, and was all over in half-an-hour. A very large number of those in the habit of attending our evening class ran down to our cottage, to bid us farewell. To check them was impossible; all that we could do was to remind them of what they had heard read, and to charge them to make use of prayer: especially the Lord's Prayer, which very many of them had acquired perfectly.

I think this single illustration of the hold which the chiefs retain over their people, and of the little heed they pay to the edicts of the native department, might convince the public at home, that the refugee chiefs have no idea of permanently submitting to British rule. Nothing can be further from the real truth than the reports sent home from time to time, "That the natives are only too anxious to pay their hut tax," or, that they are fast becoming civilized, and are delighted with the existing form of government; whereas,

in point of fact, so far from being popular with the blacks, the native department is powerless to effect any changes in the habits or institutions of the people, except through the chiefs; so much so, that, if a chief ordered one thing and the department another, there is not a Caffre in the colony whose life would be worth a month's purchase if he obeyed the Government and disobeyed his chief.

This was pretty clearly proved in the vaccination matter; and is more so by the continual refusal of the native department to attempt taking a native census, on the ground that it could not be attempted without danger of an insurrection. While, with regard to the hut-tax, every one at all familiar with the natives knows that it is paid with the greatest reluctance; that every artifice is resorted to to escape payment; and that fines to the amount of hundreds of pounds are occasionally inflicted in a single district, for attempted evasion. Indeed, I believe that tax is only levied by the circulation of a report which is secretly undermining the whole fabric; namely, that "The Queen sends for the money and must have it," by which the ignorant people are led to suppose they are paying tribute to a foreign country, rather than contributing *their very small quota* to the expenses of the colony; for, I may observe, the Caffre population (of probably a quarter of a million), pays about one-sixth of the colonial revenue of Natal; whereas, the remaining five-sixths are borne by a population of barely fifteen thousand whites, at the rate of £4 a head; to say nothing of the many thousands a-year expended by the Home Government in maintaining the European troops. Though, again, the healthiness of the climate, and the convenience of the situation on the globe, makes the whole Cape colony a valuable military station.

Whilst on this topic, I might observe that the great stumblingblock of the native department is the systematic attempt to ignore English law, in the administration of justice amongst the coloured races; and to set up in the place an unwritten code of Caffre usages; the natural effect of which has been to Cafferize the subordinate officials, and make them like so many white petty chiefs; whose word is law without appeal, and whose frown is literally an introduction to the whipping-post hard by.

These officials know no superior, except the secretary for native affairs; at whose dictation the said usages are determined; and as Caffres are the authors of those usages, it seems extraordinary to employ English gentlemen to carry them out; unless, indeed, it is vainly intended to wean the whole body of Caffres from their original chiefs, and raise up a generation of white chiefs administering pure Caffre law,—a black edition of Brigham Young's Mormon community. Such, I need hardly say, is the view taken by the Caffre chiefs. And with unfeigned jealousy they see a new magistrate come into their neighbourhood, to exercise a power over their people which they themselves claim as one of the principal privileges of their chieftaincy.

I can imagine the position of those magistrates to be very anomalous. Cases are continually being brought before them for decision between European and natives, and between the natives themselves, wherein the magistrate is not allowed to use English law; but is compelled to make the best compromise possible between British jurisprudence and Caffre usage. Between Caffres and Europeans, the magistrate's decision invariably puzzles both parties; while between Caffre and Caffre his interference, of course, is

only sought when the applicants belong to different tribes ; and then, though it prevents bloodshed, yet for want of a fixed standard of law, it often becomes imperative for the magistrate to consult the weaker suiter's real interest by giving the case against him, rightfully or wrongfully ; for, remember, these magistrates have no means of carrying out their decisions ; except by means of a half-dozen ragamuffin native runners, armed with big sticks and a brass buckle ; who, by-the-bye, are the most barefaced thieves in the world.

I will illustrate the working of the system by one or two actual facts. One of our oldest, and most worthy, German missionaries has a station and estate near Pinetown ; thither a young orphan woman, a Zulu refugee, fled one day in terror, and sought the shelter of his station ; because her nearest relative, by Caffre usage, had the privilege of selling her ; and had sold her for a drove of calves to another old Caffre, who intended adding her to his long list of wives. Of course the German missionary did what any Christian gentleman would do ; he refused to allow these Caffre traffickers to fetch the girl away by force, and was heavily fined by one of these magistrates for so doing ; but, what was still worse, the poor girl was handed over to the vile old miscreant who had purchased her. Do the outrages of African slavery at all surpass the abominations thus carried on under the abused shelter of the British flag ?

Another instance of great injustice, though not of so repulsive a character, is of every-day occurrence. As before observed, all the native population, or the greater part, have been refugees in their day ; yet these earlier refugees now lay claim to all the fresh arrivals, numbering about ten thousand a-year. If possible, they smuggle them into the colony, unknown to the magistrates, to avoid Sir B. Pine's excellent

apprenticeship ordinance (whereby all new comers must earn a naturalisation, by going to service at current wages for three years); and in that case the resident chiefs send them into the towns on their own account, and take every farthing of their earnings as they become due, under the threat of reporting the strangers to the magistrates; or if they are regularly apprenticed to European masters by law, then also these older refugees claim and extort their earnings on the ground of chieftaincy; so that, in reality, these refugees, who are British subjects, are compelled to yield their earnings to an absolute stranger; whose only title exists in the usages of the country from which they both have fled to save their lives! And I maintain that usages like these, so utterly repugnant to English law, ought to be left behind in the country that gave them birth; for if it is not safe for the chief to remain at home, and carry on his native rule, then the safety which he voluntarily seeks in British territory must be considered as an indemnity for the loss of any such outrageous tribal rights.

Polygamy is another importation of like character; and positively our English magistrates are obliged to consider it as one of the established laws of the realm. No attempt has been made to put it down; and provided a Caffre is willing to pay the native department seven shillings a-year for each wife, *i.e.*, for the hut she occupies, the magistrates are bound to recognise them all as legal wives, though thirty or forty may be living at one time.

The horrors and depravity resulting from this want of proper legislation none can fully depict. I will not here enter into further particulars. Suffice it to say that every day, and every hour, is consolidating the power of the chiefs; who feel that they are beginning to have influence enough to

treat the native secretary, and his minor officials, as attempted usurpers of a self-constituted chieftaincy over the black population.

This feeling has existed, more or less, from the first. Formerly, however, each of our numerous native tribes was at daggers drawn with its neighbouring clan; so that, by a little dexterity, the native department could play off one against the other, and come in as high arbitrator between the two; and, moreover, all were in deadly terror of being handed over to the Zulu monarch from whom they had fled. The last eight or ten years have all but removed this, the only mainstay of the department's authority, in the following manner. From time to time some of the most powerful refugee chiefs have attempted to resist an order from the native secretary. The chief summons his clan to arms, with the threat of immediate punishment in the event of any one capable of carrying spear refusing to answer his call. Of course the people (willingly or not it is hard to say), obey their chief from the oldest to the youngest. A "commando" is forthwith sent out by Government, to prevent the movement extending, and to preserve the lives of the European settlers. Then comes a skirmish and a rout. The chief is outlawed, and the property of himself and tribe is confiscated; and a proclamation in the colonial papers announces that "Chief So-and-So is deposed," that "So many thousand beeves have been captured," and that "The tribe of the above has been broken up, and dispersed amongst the neighbouring clans."

It is needless to say that the unfortunate common people are the greatest sufferers in these affairs. Their huts are all burned, their cattle seized, and they are sent to find shelter amongst the people of other and more wily of the

refugee chiefs; the natural result of which has been to undo our only safeguard, and place the entire black population in the hands of five or six leading chiefs, instead of having it broken up and dispersed as heretofore; while, at the same time, a most unfriendly feeling towards Government has been kindled in the minds of the suffering poor people by the ruin inflicted on them and their children.

It is perhaps a difficult subject to deal with; but to me it appears that the only course open to Government, to avoid a Zulu insurrection, is to re-organize the existing native department—to buy out the tribal rights of the few remaining native chiefs, by giving grants of land and annual stipends from the native revenue; and then to divide the natives into two distinct bodies, under two separate English rulers (barristers if obtainable). One body should consist entirely of polygamists, and might easily be located in one of the Crown reserve districts; where they would be quite cut off from the other body, and where the present number of wives might be allowed to die out; but no additions ought to be made, under penalty of removal beyond the British frontier.

The second division should be placed on exactly the same footing as English artisans arriving in the colony, subject to English law in every respect, the only allowance in favour of the native being that wherever a family has hitherto been occupying Crown land, on sufferance, during the last few years, the same or an equivalent right shall be afforded, in some shape or other, as may be hereafter determined on.

This plan alone will bring the native population under British rule; and, by abolishing polygamy, will open the door directly to Christianity, and then, as a natural consequence, to immediate civilisation.

CHAPTER V.

EFFECTS OF A CAFFRE PANIC—SPECIMEN OF THE RISING GENERATION OF NATIVES—CHRISTIANITY THE TRUE BASIS OF CIVILISATION—CONSTRUCTION OF A MISSION CART — SELECTION OF DRAUGHT OXEN—PRELIMINARY DIFFICULTIES, AND BREAKING IN DRAUGHT CATTLE—VISIT TO THE UMGENI FALLS—VEXATIOUS CONDUCT OF NATIVE DRIVERS.

To be without Caffre labour is, perhaps, the greatest privation Natal colonists often have to endure. That labour, though attended by drawbacks, neither few nor slight, and requiring great control of temper on the part of the employer, yet is of immense advantage to the English settlers—it relieves them from a deal of drudgery and hard work ; besides that the natives are naturally adapted to many occupations, at which the majority of English are almost novices ; such as herding cattle on the hills, fetching firewood from the forest, or the like. The good people of Maritzburg had ample opportunities of experiencing this privation, for a week or two after the vaccination panic, until the labour market was supplied from some tribes on the southern frontier ; who appeared to take as little heed of the vaccination order as of the threatened disease.

Few felt the change more than ourselves. The evening gatherings quite ceased ; while the amount of work thrown on our hands was materially increased by a plot of Indian corn, which we had planted for the supply of our overtaxed kitchen ; but had barely commenced fencing, when the Caffre

migration took place. To preserve this was indispensable, as there was every probability of our kitchen becoming, more than ever, a rendezvous for Caffres seeking employment after the panic had subsided. I therefore devoted several hours a day for a fortnight to this task ; and at length succeeded in completing a formidable bank and trench, sufficient to turn either ox or horse.

Towards the close of the month a large influx of labourers once more set in. One, an aged wiry man, formerly a great warrior, who had recently escaped with his life from a fearful massacre in the Zulu country (though with the loss of wives, children, cattle, and everything else he once possessed), came to our cottage door seeking employment ; and, poor creature, was not a little pleased to hear the glad-tidings of a future world ; where *even* he might find a resting-place for his care-worn, blood-stained, soul. Two others joined us soon after ; so that our week-day and Sunday services were recommenced, and quickly regained their former flourishing condition.

One of the latter two was a fine specimen of the new-fashioned civilized Caffres ; the reader must therefore pardon me for devoting a few lines to a practical illustration of the injurious effects of such training. The youth in question, who was about fourteen, had been originally trained, I believe, at a Government institution ; afterwards he worked for an official ; and, when clad in a little suit Mrs. M. bestowed upon him, looked really like a noble Roman youth, full of fire and animation. His duties were very simple, being merely to attend on Mrs. M., and accompany us on our foot rambles in the neighbourhood of Maritzburg. We fully anticipated great things from this intelligent lad, and commenced treating him more as a young scholar than a servant. Imagine then

the surprise with which we received a demand for tobacco from the educated stripling, with a polite hint that he could not remain unless allowed the use of a short pipe ! Further, to show his progress in the arts of civilized life, we found him caning this Caffre, and boxing that one, with the utmost effrontery : narrowly escaping an untimely end at the hands of a morose savage whom he struck one day ; while he actually broke the head of the aged Caffre, with a club, while the latter was peaceably eating his dinner ; and, not content with this, robbed the poor old man of his first month's wages while asleep ; which, however, we made him restore, and then gladly paid the young gentleman to take his departure ! Happily for him, and to the excessive joy of the neighbouring Caffres, the youngster immediately let himself for three months to a boer ; who happened to be on the point of making a trading tour into the interior, far beyond the limits of the English rule ; where, doubtlessly, he often had to smart for his vagaries. I saw and conversed with him several times after his return, and found a marked improvement in his demeanour !

Think not, however, that I am an advocate for harsh treatment in general. Far from it ; only this I can say, from experience, that it is comparatively easy to induce a rude native, fresh from the craals, to adopt the first principles of religion ; and still easier to work upon one who has learned obedience, and steady industry, under a firm and judicious master (be he Dutch or English) ; but it is an almost hopeless task to make any impression for good on natives who have taken a fancy to the exterior coating of civilized life, without any corresponding renovation of the inner-man. The experience of all European countries will show that Christianity

does not follow invariably in the wake of civilisation ; but the universal history of ages proves the other side of the case, that wherever Christianity has taken root there civilisation and progress have invariably followed and flourished ; no better illustration of which can be found than that afforded by the British isles themselves.

As, however, the season for travelling was fast approaching, it became necessary to provide ourselves with oxen, a cart, and tent ; for, I should state oxen are preferable to horses in a broken country : especially when deviating from the beaten track, as necessity would often compel us to do.

So, again, the ordinary colonial waggon was not at all adapted to our purpose ; besides that the price demanded was too much for our unaided means. We required something light enough to be drawn by a couple of oxen over any obstacles, or to be lifted up and down slight precipices where the oxen had to leap, or where they could not get sufficient footing to draw anything behind them. After vainly endeavouring to get a suitable vehicle constructed in the town, we came to the conclusion of attempting it ourselves with the aid of an intelligent English blacksmith, who made us a pair of stout tires and an iron axletree for twenty-seven shillings. Mrs. M. undertook the drapery part for the cart-cover, curtains, and a spare travelling tent. I and the Caffres applied ourselves diligently to making a pair of wheels and constructing a cart-frame ; with fittings for a permanent awning, to shelter us from the sun, or from the storm, as occasion might require.

I will not enter into all the details of cart-building ; but will merely say that time and patience, with the practical application of one or two mechanical powers not usually em-

ployed by professional wheelwrights, enabled us to turn out a very handy little vehicle, at a trifling cost, in which we travelled over hills and dales, through rivers and morasses, with perfect impunity; and, indeed, it carried us little short of two thousand miles, in long and short trips within the colony, during the first twelve months: though at the close of the year, I confess, it was so patched and battered and knocked about, that it was utterly useless; save as a relic of the past, and a proof of the hard service it had undergone.

The cart completed, and rigged with its four-cornered tent, crowned with a permanent oil-cloth flat roof, with a neat vallance and curtains running on rings, we began to anticipate with much pleasure the proposed excursions into distant parts of the colony; but ere those anticipations could be realized it was necessary to procure a pair of draught oxen, trained to the yoke and inoculated. One of the Zulu traders offered a pair for sale on reasonable terms (nine pounds ten shillings). As they were professedly broken in(?)—and beautifully marked black and white, with such sleek coats and placid faces, (and above all inoculated,)* we took a decided fancy to the well-matched pair, and parted with the hard cash before putting their qualities to the test!

That evening, when the seller brought them down to our home, we were by no means agreeably surprised to notice the aversion which the formerly placid brutes showed to the process of tethering; nor did I at all covet the honour of performing the operation myself, when I saw how these excitable “lambs” applied their hoofs and formidable horns to the bystanders indiscriminately! Indeed, it appeared that the

* No farmer cares to let a traveller cross his estate with uninoculated cattle for fear of introducing the disease.

Caffres fully appreciated the difficulties in store for them ; for when the usual party came in to prayers the whole of them were quite crest-fallen, and begged us to send the oxen back next morning before further mischief occurred : assuring us that they were thoroughly wild “Slaughter oxen,” just driven in from the mountains, and that they would demolish the cart, and kill the “Missees,” if ever she ventured to ride behind them ! One Caffre in particular (the aged warrior) was eloquent in the extreme—the only time I ever saw him thoroughly roused—extending his arms like curled horns, and goring at all the Caffres within his reach, he described the antics of an infuriated ox ; and most impressively implored “Missees” to have nothing to do with the “bonya shingaan incarby”—(rascally oxen)—a timely warning, as we had contemplated an experimental trip to the neighbouring hills next morning !

Acting under the Caffre’s advice, on the morrow we had the frail cart drawn out on to a grassy plain, upwards of two miles in length, where there would be plenty of room for a run ; and, with the assistance of several neighbours’ Caffres, succeeded (after much difficulty) in harnessing the unfortunate brutes to the little vehicle.

Happily Mrs. M. decided on following the old Caffre’s advice, and declined riding with me on the first trip ; for scarcely had I taken my seat when the dance began in earnest ; both oxen plunged, and bellowed, and lashed their tails ; dashing at the two Caffre leaders, with their long horns, till they shook them off ; and then starting at an ugly gallop, with the cart like a tin kettle at their heels, made for the hills, where they would quickly have expended their steam and become more tractable. Unfortunately they suddenly changed their course, and took a sharp turn for one of the

leading thoroughfares of the city. My reins snapped while endeavouring to divert them, and away we went merrily; till, at the corner of a street, they came in contact with a large block of granite, which turned the cart over—fortunately without damaging it, or me, beyond disengaging the pole—whereupon the oxen came to a standstill and calmly surveyed the scene of disaster.

Convinced that the cattle had never been broken in, but unwilling to abandon the enterprise on a single failure, we had the cart brought home; and once more employing the large packing case, used for the tiger-cat, we drove the cattle to a stone quarry a quarter of a mile distant, where the Caffres loaded the case with heavy pieces of rough stone; and then yoking the cattle, allowed them to expend their superfluous vigour in dragging the stone up to our cottage. This we repeated several times, during the day, with such effect that the same evening we made a satisfactory experimental trip with the broken cart, and next day attempted the proposed journey to the neighbouring hills; but with most disastrous results—the oxen taking fright the moment they were yoked, and dashing headlong down towards a little rivulet; where the cart again overturned, crushing and carrying away the slight canvas awning and the entire body of the vehicle: to such an extent that it continued running on the wheels the wrong way upwards, as the infuriated oxen rushed away to the hills, until the harness gave way and disengaged the wreck.

By this time we had been well laughed at for attempting to break in such stubborn brutes, and several friends suggested that a couple of ponies would answer our purpose better. As, however, the annual sickness was just then

carrying off horses by scores, unless kept on highlands, we decided on making one more attempt to subjugate our unruly oxen; especially as one of them, "Marree," had already become much tamer: so much so, as to feed out of Mrs. M.'s hand, and hold its head to be rubbed between the horns. Accordingly, I procured a strong heavy stake, well sharpened at the thickest end. This we connected with the axle-tree by a long chain, so as to drag behind; the chain being so fixed that, when the cattle attempted to run away, we had only to raise the lighter end of the pole, in order to bury the pointed extremity deeply in the soft turf; where it went ploughing along till the ardour of the untrained beasts had abated; by which method, and a little coaxing, we eventually succeeded in bringing them to such a state of tameness, that they became really as docile as pet dogs; and a few months later, when we were travelling through a district infested with wolves and leopards, it was really curious to see how eagerly they took up their quarters, of a night, close to our tent door; and on several occasions called us up, by their plaintive subdued moans, to scare away some troublesome intruder.

A few successful trips, to places within easy reach of the capital, emboldened us to attempt a visit to the celebrated Umgeni waterfalls; distant about fifteen miles, on the main road to the interior. For several miles this line of road skirts the Shwartz-kop Native Location; so that, notwithstanding the scarcity of habitations along the actual route, there was some prospect of sowing seed by the wayside amongst the numerous native travellers on foot, going into the city on business,—a class through whom many a home-truth may be disseminated far and wide, where the missionary himself will never find a hearing.

Starting early, with a brilliant African sunshine glittering in the heavy dewdrops—pendent from myriads of blooming flowers, we rode in perfect safety the first eight miles. Here we rested and enjoyed a hillside breakfast: intending to leave the cattle, cart, and Caffres, at this point, to be ready for the return journey at night, while Mrs. M. walked forward with me to the cascade, still distant several miles; where we arrived about noon, after several little interviews with Europeans and native travellers along the road.

The view that there unfolded itself was wonderfully sublime, and not less wonderfully beautiful, in its peaceful serenity. Yes, reader, if you wish to form anything like an adequate idea of these extraordinary waterfalls, you must endeavour to grasp in one imagination a twofold scene. First, fancy yourself standing on a bold, bare, block of granite, stretching out into a vast natural ravine; creep carefully to the very edge, and cautiously peep over; there you will behold an awful cataract, boiling and foaming; where the great Umgeni river takes a mighty leap, and drops like molten lead into the abyss below; then raise your eyes, and behold the calmest and most lovely picture Nature can produce; see long sweeping hills and wide-spread valleys waving in the noontide sunshine, beneath their luxuriant mantle of flowering grasses, dotted here and there with numerous herds. See, too, those pretty homesteads amid the towering gum trees, with their well-kept gardens; and mark the flock of sheep around the grave of that young colonist who, a few years since, was swept down that thundering torrent at your feet, and perished (an only child,) almost within hail of his father's door.

And, reader, can you spy in yonder verdant landscape a

slender silvery thread, winding in and out? That is the great Umgeni. Now track its meandering course, nearer and nearer, till it widens and forms the noble stream hard by. Placid and transparent, without a ripple, see it hasten on towards the fatal falls! Then see the fine broad stream pent up and narrowed, suddenly, between huge granite rocks on either side; yet silent and hurrying, like a hasty messenger, through a crowd of rugged boulders scattered about within the narrow portal, till it stumbles on the rocky ridge and dashes headlong downwards. In an instant, the appearance of this vast volume of water is changed into that of a pure white muslin curtain, of prodigious length, fluttering in the wind as it drops down, four hundred feet, into a cold, dark, thundering cavern, far out of sight beneath!

See, too, those massive walls of many-coloured granite, covered with mosses and lichens; yet deeply furrowed (or rather fluted) from top to bottom by falling water, in ages bygone, like as if perfect pillars had been cut on the face of the rock by workman's chisel! Thus stand and watch the fleeting waters till the crash appals you, and the dread of hurrying down that swift glib stream makes you withdraw, almost in horror, from its very contemplation! And, finally, turn your back upon the great cascade; and see, miles off, a lovely wood-clad valley lying deep down below, with what appears a little rivulet along its rocky bottom. That is the same river, the great Umgeni, that you just now saw leaping with ungovernable fury down that giddy precipice! Such are the waterfalls of Natal!

Here we rested for lunch, on a projecting rock just level with the falls, mixing the wine with water caught in a glass from the verge of the cataract. It seemed almost a mercy

to rescue even a single glassful from its impending doom. In that simple action what a picture might be drawn of the tide of heathen nations rolling onwards to eternity; with here and there a solitary missionary stretching out a friendly hand to save, as it were, a drop out of a torrent from the bottomless pit!

Quitting that enchanting spot we began to retrace our steps towards the cart; which we sighted, in the distance, shortly before sundown. Unfortunately, at the moment, we were passing an English homestead, where the cows were then being milked; and yielding to the persuasive influence of the refreshing aliment—doubly sweet after walking fourteen miles under an African sun—we lingered awhile, and were enjoying a little conversation with the English people, when a mounted Caffre from the neighbouring location, clad in a cast-off officer's uniform, came skeltering along the road from Maritzburg. Pulling up, abruptly, the hatless, woolly-headed, uniformed gentleman advised us that our Caffres were just starting homewards with the cart, as he passed; a piece of information we could hardly credit at the time, but which soon proved correct; and notwithstanding that I ran some distance, endeavouring to overtake them, or attract their attention, it was all lost labour. There sat the two fellows on the driving-box, galloping homewards at a furious rate, while I and Mrs. M. were compelled to add another eight miles to our already long day's march! It turned out that the Caffres had a great beef-eating party that night in town; and further, that they anticipated a thunderstorm; which indeed overtook us on the bleak hillside, soon after dark, and kept unwelcome company with us till we reached our snug little verandah cottage.

CHAPTER VI.

CROWN RESERVE LANDS AND NATIVE LOCATIONS—INTERCOURSE WITH SHWARTZ-KOP CAFFRES—BANEFUL EFFECTS OF POLYGAMY—A MISSIONARY'S ORDINARY ROUTINE—PROPOSED VISIT TO TABLE MOUNTAIN—A DUTCHMAN'S ORCHARD—AFRICAN TWILIGHT IN THE WILDERNESS—ENCAMPMENT AMIDST MOUNTAINEERS—REMARKABLE SPRINGS ON THE HIGHEST LANDS—REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY OF LIFE.

HERE let me say a passing word on the Crown reserve lands, and Caffre locations, at Natal. When Natal first attracted the attention of European colonists and adventurers, it unquestionably formed a portion of the Zulu dominions; as the existing deed of cession by the Zulu monarch satisfactorily proves: though it appears the Zulus were not altogether partial to the country, owing to the difficulty of maintaining themselves in any but a wooded country. The Dutch thoroughly enforced their bargain with the Zulus; and the English next ousted the Hollanders; who either forfeited, or sold all their interest in the colony, especially coastwise.

Of the forfeited land, the choicest tracts, (or rather what formerly were considered the best,) were granted out, or sold to fortunate individuals; the rest was termed "Crown Reserve Land," and has been set aside for native purposes. Much ignorance existed amongst the Natal officials, till of late years, with respect to these Crown reserves: owing to the almost inaccessible regions in which they lay, they were supposed to be mere rocky wildernesses; instead of which,

they contain the finest land in Natal when once they are entered; though, like the celebrated Amatola Mountains, the difficulty is to find admittance.

In an evil hour these inaccessible strongholds, capable of producing corn, cotton, wool, meat, and every description of food, sufficient for the supply of the whole Cape colony, were parcelled out into native locations; and handed over to the refugee Zulus, who sought protection from Panda; and more recently from Ketchawayo, his victorious son. Thus, it is estimated that, in a short interval, not less than two or three hundred thousand Caffres, with their chiefs, have been herded in these inaccessible locations; not, mark, with a view of turning the fertile soil to account: on the contrary, not an acre has been allotted to a single Caffre to call his own; so that, at the present day, these unmanageable masses of barbarism are floating about within the prescribed limits, in regular gipsy fashion; pitching their huts at random, and cultivating as much or as little as they please rent free, just wherever it may suit their fancy or convenience. They are, moreover, wholly cut off from police supervision; and, as I before observed, the resident magistrate of any location (who, by-the-bye, generally resides miles away in the nearest European settlement) is regarded merely as the tax-gatherer, or as referee between tribe and tribe, or between blacks and whites; rather than as an officer appointed to preserve the persons and property of individual tribes from mutual destruction. Consequently, by Caffre law, a man might club one of his wives to any extent short of killing her, without bringing himself under magisterial jurisdiction; or a party of witch-doctors may be hired, to raise up a hue and cry against an obnoxious

Caffre, and cry "Se-beef—Se-beef:" as a gentle hint that unless he abandons huts, growing crops, and everything immoveable, he will be poisoned, or burnt in his hut some fine evening; so, at a native beef-eating, a stranger, or even a member of the tribe who drinks too freely, may be conveyed aside and beaten almost to a mummy for the sport of others. Further, if the head man of any family chooses to kill half a dozen of his own people, unobserved by members of another tribe, it is quite certain no information would ever reach the magistrate's ears; with many like abominations, practised with impunity, owing to the utter isolation of the locations.

Whereas, if these refugees ever try to fulfil their threat of exterminating the colonists, Government will find, to their cost, that those very positions which ought to have been opened up by practicable roads, and peopled by reliable settlers, have been left in the hands of an intrepid and war-like body of mountaineers; who, with the firearms already in their possession, might hold the different passes against fearful odds: as the reader will perceive, hereafter, when he has had a little insight to some of these localities.

The Shwartz-kop Location, containing about fifteen thousand natives, is, perhaps, as accessible as any; it lies about eight miles west of the capital; and derives its title from a lofty wood-crowned hill of that name, one of the highest peaks in the colony, beyond which the location commences. Most of the people from Shwartz-kop are engaged in supplying Maritzburg with corn, potatoes, poultry, firewood, &c.; and, from their contiguity to the seat of government, are, no doubt, exempt from the oppression prevalent in other locations. With these people we became very familiar, and daily we had a large party at our cottage to rest their

burdens, and beg a basin of coffee, while we conversed with them on the Resurrection, the Judgment, and the Saviour. Yet, as a proof that advancement in worldly matters is not any assistance in bringing Caffres to Christianity, I might mention that the only real incivility, and aversion to hear the gospel message, that we met with throughout the colony, was at the Shwartz-kop Location; and from a Caffre who had acquired a tolerable knowledge of the English language.

On that particular occasion, I remember, Mrs. M. started with me, and two Caffre attendants, in our little mission cart, quite early in the morning; and though the attempt had been ridiculed by parties who knew the locality, and saw the frail structure of our cart, yet we reached the location safely about mid-day. Having outspanned, we proceeded to visit the neighbouring craals; but found them for the most part empty, the owners being absent for the day. At the one in question sat an old Caffre woman of about sixty, and a man in the prime of life, with a lad of eight or ten. The two latter gladly received our friendly message; but the man, a most ill-favoured fellow, was highly displeased at our visit, and declined to hold any intercourse; even refusing to tell our Caffre driver where he could find the spring that supplied his craal with water. However, the close of the day more than compensated for the morning's mishap for, after rambling through a beautiful and fertile district, dotted over with numerous groups of inhabited huts, and conversing here and there as an opportunity presented itself, we halted for dinner, about an hour before sundown, in a densely wooded kloof, with a stream of limpid water bursting out of a rocky bank.

While thus refreshing ourselves, and resting the cattle, preparatory to a return to town, we were agreeably surprised to see a troop of about thirty youngsters herding goats on a hill side in the distance; whither we wended our steps; and, after dispelling the fears of some of the minor lads, succeeded in seating a large double ring round us on the grassy slope: to whom we introduced the general outline of Christianity, much as you would to a class of English school children. Instead of turning their backs on the strange tidings, the little fellows gladly listened and promised to take home all we had told them. And, what was very pleasing, one of the bigger lads, without being asked, brought Mrs. M. a bottle of water.

A slight mishap befel us on our journey homewards; for, notwithstanding that it was all down hill, and the cart travelled at a very unpleasant rate (sometimes pitching us out on to the haunches of the cattle, and not unfrequently requiring the united strength of myself and a Caffre to prevent its overturning, or to lower it down some steep place), yet darkness overtook us when barely half way back; though fortunately, not before reaching tolerably even ground. While thus pursuing an almost trackless course, in the direction of the town lights, the oxen took a leap at what proved to be a muddy gully; and, barely extricating themselves, buried the cart in the mire right up to the axle, fortunately without plunging us into the same. Of course the harness gave way, leaving the vehicle in the lurch; and, to make the matter worse, the extreme darkness that had set in made it difficult to extricate the cart, or to patch up the harness for the rest of the journey; though at length we rectified matters, and reached home without further mishap.

On another occasion, while making a day's trip within eight or nine miles of the city, I remember meeting with a most distressing case ; which shows the difficulty of carrying out successful mission work until some attempt is made to put down polygamy. The individuals, in this instance, were much better off than the generality of Caffres ; having been brought up at a Wesleyan Station, where they acquired many useful and industrious habits. In fact, the position and style of their huts, standing alone on the verge of a forest, with a rippling stream close by, and a considerable tract of cultivated land, bespoke an advanced stage of Caffre life ; while the interior of the hut would have done credit to many an English cottager, so far as neatness and cleanliness went. The man and his wife being both at home, I and Mrs. M. accepted an invitation from the latter to come in out of the noon-day sun ; and took the opportunity of purchasing milk, the better to show the disinterestedness of our visit ; as the woman had said, in broken English, that she perceived I was an "Umfundeese" or missionary, and I was afraid lest she should think we spoke to her on religion for the sake of begging afterwards ! Amongst other topics of conversation, that of polygamy was introduced ; and, as it appeared that they had been regularly baptised and married, I stated the great sin attached to the native practice of taking an unlimited number of wives.

The husband, however, who had been sitting cross-legged on a piece of matting, beside a wood fire in the centre of the hut, manufacturing little wooden articles for Caffre sale, would not agree with me on this point ; but endeavoured to establish the propriety of the native custom ; on the ground that as *he* was situated he was cut off from his own people,

and exposed to all the dangers of a European; but, worse than all, that his *one* wife barely kept herself and children; whereas, if he had several wives, he could keep his corn-fields in order without having to toil in the sun himself; and could get rich by sending a string of wood-carriers into town, with ponderous faggots of firewood on their unfortunate heads and shoulders.

We purchased some of the man's wares, and earnestly reminded him of the temporal as well as eternal misery that would certainly befall one who sinned against light; but, while absent from the hut to fetch some little articles, the poor woman told Mrs. M., with tears, that her husband had been long threatening to revert to polygamy; and in reality had already made choice of a second partner.

Of course such a person would be excommunicated by his own missionary, but what relief would that afford to that poor Christian woman; who, by the existing Caffre usage, would be compelled to give up to a temporary favourite her home, and all the numberless little articles of domestic use such as teacups, tumblers, knives, forks, plates, and clothes, earned by her patient industry in early life; while she herself would be condemned to the deepest servitude for life; hoeing and breaking up the soil, or carrying produce, day by day, into the capital for sale; for the maintenance of her worthless husband and his increasing household.

O, think of the hapless lot of that poor woman; and say whether her position is one shade better than the American slave, sold from the fond partner of her earlier days! Surely as fellow-Christians and fellow-citizens we ought to show some sympathy with our suffering sisters in Caffreland; and leave no stone unturned till polygamy, or at least *an increase*

to the number of existing wives, is forbidden within the borders of Her Majesty's dominions. And certain I am that it were better for a missionary never to set foot on heathen soil ; than to baptise nominal converts, without a clear understanding that they for ever renounce polygamy.

For my own part I made a point of requiring still more, as our present generation of refugees openly talk of their ability to expel the English from the colony. I felt it my duty to insist on a solemn promise to acknowledge the Queen's supremacy ; and, startling as it may appear, I never yet met with a refugee Caffre willing to receive baptism on those two conditions ; though many have been thoroughly qualified in other respects. Consequently it appears hopeless to carry on mission-work amongst that people, until polygamy is checked by law ; and until the social condition of the natives has been raised, so that they appreciate the advantages of a Christian government.

Good people in England must not think that long or short mission excursions can be undertaken day after day ; or that a missionary has nothing to do beyond putting on his hat to go away preaching from morning till noon, and from noon till nightfall, with a bible-class morning and evening, and his congregation on Sundays. Very different is the actual case. First of all the wear and tear of a twenty mile ramble, over hill and dale, with an occasional open-air address, tells considerably on the physical powers. Again, in nine cases out of ten, the missionary has to depend in a great measure on his own industrial resources for the supply of his table. The poultry-yard must be regularly and carefully attended ; the garden requires constant supervision ; corn has not only to be grown, but also to be thrashed and ground ; perhaps the

cattle will take a fancy to make a tour on their own account for a day or two ; or a Caffre will come in, in hot haste, to say that a drove of strange oxen have stormed the Mealie garden fence, and are threatening the next year's store of food ; or, as was more frequently the case with us, the little home-made cart required some patching and tinkering ; so that, in my own case, after taking into account the necessity of devoting some portion of time to study and the preparation of English sermons, I often found that a very small portion of the twenty-four hours was left for sleep and recreation. And whenever we succeeded in getting two moderate rambles in a week, or one of fifty or sixty miles, we thought ourselves extremely fortunate.

One of the first of these longer trips was to the Natal Table Mountain, lying about twenty-five miles east of Maritzburg, on the borders of the Inanda Caffre Location. This remarkable mountain seems to have had no friend to bring it before the public notice ; consequently, whenever a table mountain is mentioned, people take for granted the Cape Town Table Mountain is the one referred to. And though the latter has the advantage in actual altitude ; yet, I think, the one at Natal is more worthy of the title of "Table," inasmuch as it is the exact shape of a vast stone altar, with perpendicular sides of storm bleached rock : rising not less than two thousand feet above the level of the sea, with a fertile plain of ten square miles upon the summit ; and more remarkable still, with a constant stream of pure water flowing across a part of that elevated plateau.

The reader will, perhaps, pardon me for giving a somewhat detailed account of this trip. Though, I ought to add, the object was not entirely of a missionary character ; notwith-

standing that events turned it to better account than we had anticipated. Let me state, therefore, that we set out one Tuesday morning, at the close of a South African autumn, with our mission cart, and two of our own half-converted Caffres. We laid in a supply of provisions for four days ; and carried a small tent, (besides the cart tent) for our attendants ; or for our own use in case of a thunderstorm, by no means unusual at that time of year.

Omitting the earlier incidents of the day's journey ; about noon we visited one of the few ancient Boer's farms, still existing at Natal. Here we received great attention, and had the opportunity of seeing a Dutchman's orchard in its full luxuriance : there being some fifteen or more acres of standard peach trees, figs, pomegranates, and the like, just in their autumnal tint. The produce of this orchard was being distilled into brandy, at a large factory on the estate ; where, by-the-bye, the Caffre labourers are engaged in a trade likely to prove highly dangerous. Indeed, during the few minutes that their overseer left them to conduct us over the garden, I half suspect that they helped themselves plentifully to the subtle fluid, trickling from the half-dozen stills ; for, on our return, we found them all smiling in a most complacent way ; and reclining, in a listless posture, against some of the crushing vats.

Resuming our journey, with a bountiful supply of peaches and pomegranates, we crossed a rivulet, and ascended one of our steep and endless Natal hills ; leaving the peaceful homestead far away below. On the hill top being gained, a fine wide plain disclosed itself ; running several miles towards the Table Mountain, gradually ascending all the way. The whole

tract of eighteen thousand acres being the freehold of the wealthy Dutchman just mentioned.

Beyond this open region the country became extremely rugged ; yet possessing fine rich tracts of land, approachable on one side by gentle slopes ; but bounded all round besides, by perpendicular precipices. Here, we passed several extensive plantations of Indian corn ; further on came traces of English farming in the shape of well-ploughed land, stacks of corn, and waving fields of oats ; in the midst of which, stood a newly-built cottage, with a show of rosy-faced children that any English yeoman might be proud of. Not yielding to a hospitable invitation, we pushed on past one or two smaller farms ; and about sundown entered a broad ascending plateau of six thousand acres, bounded on either side by precipices, and converging to a point ; at the far end of which stood the noble Table Mountain, like a huge twelfth-cake crowning a well decked table, its lofty walls of solid rock erect and glittering in the golden rays of a southern sunset.

Silent, chill, and sombre, are the brief moments of twilight on an African mountain side ; with naught around but solitary clumps of dwarf mimosa bush ; or, here and there, huge fragments of projecting rock, looming through the gathering shades like muffled giants. And, as though impressed with the loneliness of the spot, we noiselessly pursued our onward course, with the tented vehicle for our night's abode ; skirting the verge of a dry brook in search of a pool at the upper end ; where some Caffres, who had kept up with us during part of the journey, directed our drivers to look for water.

Darkness overtook us ere we reached the pool ; however,

having once selected a sheltered corner behind a little thicket, our encampment was speedily effected—the cattle were turned adrift to feed—the tent curtains of our cart were drawn—the pole was lashed to the stump of a broken tree, to keep the cart in a horizontal position—while one Caffre fanned dry grass into a flame, to assist the other to cut a good faggot for the night's bivouac fire, and to enable Mrs. M. to unpack a basket of provisions for a late dinner ; well-earned, after a ten hours' journey.

No sooner did our camp-fire begin to blaze, than it attracted the attention of the dogs belonging to several native kraals in the neighbourhood : the tenants of which quickly revealed their different localities by exhibiting lights. These disturbed children of the mountains began calling, in long clear notes from their far-off huts, to our Caffre lads, to ascertain who we were, and what we wanted ; begging us not to let the cattle ramble, as they had standing corn close by,—a very timely warning. Supper over in their rude huts, these poor heathen people began their war songs ; children, men, and women, blending their voices in the unearthly melody. Oh what a life to lead ; content to eat and drink, to sing praises to themselves, and then to die without one warning of the great eternity, stretching for ever and ever beyond the grave !

By the time our evening meal was concluded, the distant singing had altogether ceased, and the wild mountain side was hushed in the deepest silence. Our two Caffres here asked us to join them at their fire, to sing their usual evening-hymn beneath the starry firmament of heaven ; but scarcely had they commenced before a few gaunt figures emerged from the darkness, and gathered round the fire,

wrapped up in coarse woolly cotton rugs, who quickly picked up the tune and watched the mode of conducting the service. To these we briefly explained the nature of our errand in Caffreland; and promised to hold a great meeting at one of the craals next day, if they would gather together all the people for the occasion.

Ere the sun tinged the eastern horizon, next morning, our kettle was swinging over a log-fire, preparatory to an early breakfast. Meanwhile a troop of boys and girls came over from the nearest craals, with a bowl of milk (bespoken the previous evening at about three times London prices), professing a great desire to join in the singing, and to inspect the novel description of cart; but in reality, I suspect, to share the better description of food on which our servants fared. The result was that our driver's stores were exhausted in a couple of meals, and we were obliged to purchase a supply at their craals, for which they charged a most exorbitant price.

Packing all stray articles, to avoid unnecessary temptation (for Caffres are becoming worse and worse in the art of pilfering, in proportion as they learn the use of tools and small articles), we set out for the actual mountain, under the shadow of which we had reposed; and charged one Caffre-attendant to remain with the cart; while the other kept an eye on the oxen, lest they should find their way into the standing-corn, or start off homewards without their burden; for, strange to say, an African ox, like a carrier-pigeon, will make his way over hills and rivers to regain any favorite spot; where it has been reared, or wont to graze with other beasts.

So close under the brow of the mountain did we appear

to be, at starting from our encampment, that I thought ten minutes' walk would take us up the rugged path by which the table-land is gained; but so deceptive are the sides of mountains, that more than an hour's hard climbing remained before the last steep ledge of rock was surmounted; where we found a strong wooden barrier placed across the narrow outlet; to confine a body of innocent prisoners in the shape of a troop of horses, old and young, sent from all parts of the colony during the months of January and February to escape the horse epidemic: which destroys a large proportion of animals, unless carefully stabled at night; or, as in this case, driven up on to very high lands. Probably some of the horses we there found belonged to ladies, or had been pet riding animals, as they gathered round us like old friends.

Notwithstanding the invigorating breeze from the Indian Ocean, the heat became very great as the day advanced; we therefore sought out the reputed rivulet—no easy task in a broad open prairie of waving grass—a little fertile county on the top of those perpendicular rocks. Innumerable paths diverged from the wooden barrier, in different directions, as far as the eye could trace: one of which appeared more worn than the rest, by the quadruped captives, and this we naturally concluded led to the spring,—a very fortunate surmise, as we were quite exhausted by the time we reached the said water.

Beside this fountain we rested and partook of lunch, sheltered from the sun by a projecting rock; the yield of crystal water from this source being not less than ten thousand gallons a day, in addition to which there are several minor springs in other directions. What a provision of the

All-wise Ruler of the universe, that these African table-lands should thus become huge condensers for the country below. For, let me observe, as in the case of the Cape Town Table Mountain and most others, the great elevation of the flat tops renders the surface very much colder than that of the surrounding country; so that the warm moist atmosphere, drawn each day by the latter from the Indian Ocean, on being drifted over these cooled surfaces on the raised plateaus, becomes condensed; and drenches the top with dew, like a cold plate suddenly passed through a jet of steam. And, by the nightly repetition of this process, sufficient water becomes accumulated in rocky pans, under the upper crust of earth, to form the said fountains; which trickles out between the crevices, and flows down through the length and breadth of the fertile plains below.

Sitting beside the stream, we could just perceive two white specks in the extreme distance; which, from their position, we concluded must be our cart and tent; yet, on quitting our encampment at daybreak, it appeared to be very close under the mountain side: especially as the ground had been rising all the way from Maritzburg.

From this mountain landscape, a reflecting mind might discover a similar picture in the journey of religious development. At every stage, or halting place, a Christian thinks himself much nearer heaven than perhaps he really is; he knows how many weary miles have been left behind, since first he turned his steps to seek in earnest the great Rock of Ages! He sees, too, at every step, a clearer outline of truths once indistinct; and thinks that a very little more advancement will crown his toils. He dare not, indeed, forsake his narrow path for any apparently easier way or

shorter road ; but patiently tracks out the thread of life, and truth, discernible by the eye of faith all through the Bible chart ; dreading lest any subtle argument, or treacherous doubt, draw him aside and plunge him over some hidden precipice ; but ever keeping a watchful eye on the high end to be attained, and that appointed way to reach it, he gladly oversteps the difficulties that beset his march, instead of stopping to investigate each one ; and at length the up-hill journey is concluded, death's barrier is past, and the redeemed soul hastens to quench its thirst beside the eternal fountain of living waters ! Oh, what will be the view taken from thence of the life-long journey in these lower regions ! How insignificant will its previous attainments appear from that high vantage ground ! Oh, how the redeemed soul will wonder that any human ends, or earthly greatness, should suffice to enslave so many millions of earth's denizens groveling in the dust below ; while heaven above, free from toil or care, is all but overlooked, if not despised ; though, it may be, for years past it has been within their reach, if only they were anxious to attain it !

CHAPTER VII.

THE SUMMIT OF THE TABLE MOUNTAIN—FIRST-FRUITS OF MISSION WORK—A MOUNTAIN TEMPEST—A DAY'S JOURNEY IN THE RAIN—
—SUNDAY BANDS IN THE CAPITAL—ADDRESS ON THE SUBJECT—
A TRIP TO RICHMOND—A SUNDAY AMONGST OLD ACQUAINTANCES—
DUPLICITY OF CAFFRE DRIVERS—MIMIC NATIVE BATTLE—FORDING
THE ILLOYO—PRACTICAL SCHEME FOR IMPROVING THE REFUGEES
—VISITATION ON AN INTENDING POLYGAMIST CONVERT.

THE soil on Table Mountain is shallow, but rich. Here and there the rock peeps through ; and, as usual in such a case at Natal, the grass is very fine and soft, with a reddish tinge, but very short, not more than ankle deep. So again, in one or two of the gentle valleys, where the depth of earth was greater, the grass was proportionably longer. Crossing one of these luxuriantly clothed flats, we stumbled on a pair of noble wild deer so suddenly, that it is hard to say which were most confused : perhaps they were ; for, drawing themselves up on high, they wildly stared, and flew before the wind like feathered arrows from a long-drawn bow.

A remarkable cleft is found on the western side of the mountain, only a few yards wide, perfectly uniform, but penetrating some hundred feet into the very heart of the rocky substructure : the opening thus formed being almost grown up with tapering trees, struggling upwards between the rocky walls, endeavouring to gain a gleam of sunshine from above.

A mile further on we found an extensive forest, covering a

wide kloof: the underwood and creepers straggling down the craggy precipices that skirt the mountain, and render it quite inaccessible except at the one point where we made our way up in the morning. Near the forest, just mentioned, are several deep natural wells, discernible by the fern trees peeping above the mossy sides; unfortunately, the thirsty traveler can merely listen to the ripple of the underground stream, without a possibility of procuring a mouthful of the precious fluid.

The views from this elevated spot are very charming; coastwise you have the Inanda Caffre Location, broken but beautiful; hill succeeding hill, like the billows of the ocean, dotted over with park-like patches of bush, fields of waving corn, and numberless Caffre huts pitched in double circles round their simple cattle kraals. To the left, again, appears a very bold rugged range of mountain scenery—sombre and uninviting—contrasting forcibly with the more subdued and wooded slopes to the far right; from which it is separated by a broad and rapid stream, formed by the confluence of the Umgeni and Umsinduse rivers; which, sweeping round opposite sides of the mountain, unite immediately and flow thenceforth in one broad channel to the Indian Ocean. Inland, the view is less striking owing to the scarcity of timber; hills, with their bright red road cuttings, and English farms sprinkled about in every conceivable locality, are the predominant features; with Maritzburg peeping out of its orchards and tall gum trees; backed, in the extreme horizon by the ever formidable Drackensberg range.

Descending the causeway from the mountain, far more easily than we climbed it in the morning, we arrived about four p.m. at the principal group of Caffre huts on the slopes

below ; and found a party of natives busily engaged in forging assegai blades—really nasty-looking weapons—constructed on a new and improved pattern, having a thick ridge or backbone down the centre, with one edge or blade made slightly concave, and the other correspondingly convex ; thus overcoming the former liability to bend on coming in contact with any very hard substance. One can imagine the force with which a Caffre can hurl one of these javelins, from the fact that it is no uncommon thing for a warrior, at a great beef-eating, to strike down an ox lifeless at one single flight of the deadly shaft.

Having gathered a tolerable congregation, we delivered a short address on the subject of the Resurrection ; bringing in the Bible description of the first paradise, as intended to be a foreshadow of the rest prepared for the people of Christ in the future life : with this single difference ; that, in the new paradise, a fall like Adam's will be impossible. About three months later, we had the satisfaction of hearing that a missionary, who afterwards visited these same people, was much struck at finding them familiar with the outlines of the doctrine of a resurrection and a Saviour ; though, let me add, I have always found a difficulty in teaching the latter, satisfactorily, until the heathen mind has learned to feel its deep depravity ; and trembles at the idea of the great judgment books. For only when constrained to cry with the Philippian jailor, " What must I do to be saved ? " I say, only then is a man likely to appreciate the great ransom provided for all mankind ! Surely, it is but little short of casting pearls before swine, to urge the need of a physician on those who are wholly unconscious of the great disease under which they are lying.

Dinner was ready at the tent by sunset, and thankfully we sat down to it after our hard day's work. Some sable friends, from the neighbouring kraals, visited us again towards evening; bringing for sale ears of Indian corn and milk, and after the meal joined the deep intonations of the native hymn-singers round our camp fire.

That night severely tested the possibility of tent mission-work. About ten p.m., it came on to blow in heavy squalls, accompanied by a torrent of rain, which increased till midnight, when a thunderstorm burst over head with indescribable grandeur; the tent being brightly illuminated from time to time, followed by intense darkness between the flashes; while the thunder, rolling from rock to rock, kept up an almost ceaseless explosion; and, though protected from the rain, we were not a little relieved when the distant reports, growing fainter and fainter, at length quite died out: and left "the spacious firmament on high" once more bespangled with its twinkling gems.

Morning broke with a cold drizzling rain, rendering locomotion very difficult. However, as I had an engagement in the city for the following Sunday, there was no alternative but to push forward as rapidly as possible; lest the several little brooks along the line of road should be flooded by another storm. With difficulty the poor oxen kept their footing, as they stumbled along, one Caffre leading and another driving; both of the latter being muffled up in blankets, and muttering audibly at their fate, till, on passing through a swollen rivulet, they met a troop of Caffre girls who refused to speak to them because "they looked so ill-tempered," which had the effect of restoring them to a somewhat better humour.

I ought to have mentioned that several of the settlers

along the return route kindly offered the shelter of their roofs; one in particular had watched our moveable tent, slowly descending from the base of the mountain, and had a comfortable dinner prepared. It was cheering, indeed, to find, as we uniformly did throughout the colony, that the scattered settlers willingly offered the best they possessed for the comfort and welcome of the Bible messenger.

The rain, which nearly subsided about noon, recommenced as the day closed; compelling us to halt for an hour or two on one of the steep hills overhanging the Bishop's Station. It was truly surprising to see the facility with which our two native drivers managed to kindle a blazing fire, notwithstanding the drenched condition of everything around. On occasions like these we had the coffee-kettle swung over the fire, while the Caffres cooked their meal, and found a cup of hot coffee quite as acceptable to ourselves as it was to them. We reached home soon after dark, to the surprise of Caffres and friends; as travelling with a regular waggon would have been quite impossible under the circumstances.

The condition of our evening classes at this period had so far improved that, in the event of our being absent from home, there were always some sufficiently advanced to start a hymn and repeat the Lord's Prayer. Unfortunately our Sunday gatherings, for afternoon service, were not quite so flourishing; owing to the attempted introduction of Sunday bands at the capital. Nor was *ours* the only congregation that suffered, for all over the city, the various mission chapels were *not only thinned*, in consequence, but even of the natives who attended the greater part would slip out one by one directly the first strains of military music thrilled in their ears; and once outside the doors the native passion for music displayed itself.

either by an indiscriminate scramble to get to the Governor's house (before which the band was stationed), or else by a grotesque dance to the waltz tune or march that the band happened to be playing.

Every true friend of religion will agree that such an afternoon's occupation ill befitted those townspeople who, in the morning, had been sending up prayers and praises to God; and that it was a sorry preparation for those about to attend the Evening Service; besides that it disturbed the town, and disorganised the calm train of thoughts necessary for the profitable reception of Scripture teaching; but, worse than all, it afforded a handle whereby the heathen might successfully sneer at the Christian religion. I therefore spoke to the regular clergy of the city on the subject, hoping to induce them to make a move: all agreed as to the evils resulting from the system, but nothing was done for about six weeks. I therefore embodied the above considerations in a brief form, and patiently waited for an invitation (which I frequently had) to preach the evening sermon at the cathedral; and, to the credit of Maritzburg, having appealed to the congregation, an address was drawn up next day, without my knowledge, headed by the mayor, ex-mayor, and nearly every respectable merchant or shopkeeper, petitioning the Governor to forego his Sunday music; which, though ineffectual for the time, eventually resulted in the day being changed. I must distinctly disclaim, however, any part in the personal invectives afterwards indulged in by certain dissenters towards the promoters of the bands.

Two very striking illustrations of 1 Sam. ii. 30 occurred in connection with the petition to the Governor. The first was that of one of the leading officials connected with the

civil service ; who, on being asked to head the petition, replied ; that the petitioners had his utmost sympathy, but that it would cost him his appointment to sign the petition ! Poor man ! In the very height of health and strength he was suddenly called to the Ruler of ruler's presence only a few months later !

The other instance was quite as striking. A poor young shopkeeper, with a large family, was the subject in this case. His business lay at the camp end of the city, confined principally to soldiers and officials in the civil service. But, with conscientious courage (stronger than any moral fortitude) he signed the petition, and immediately forfeited all his former patronage. Yet, strange to say, from that time the man's business took a colonial turn, and went on rapidly improving, till it placed him in a much higher position than he ever occupied previously.

Scarcely had the oxen recovered from their hard work on the last-mentioned excursion, when the clergyman from Richmond, a township lying twenty-five miles south-west of Maritzburg, called on us and asked me to do his duty on the following Sunday—a thing I always did gratuitously in the colony, where most of the clergy have heavy work and small remuneration. Unfortunately, however, both our drivers objected ; declaring their inability to go thither ; one brother asserting that neither of them knew the road, the other that there were two impassable rivers along the route.

In spite of their remonstrances, Saturday morning found us on our journey to the said outlying township ; though with anything but fine weather. Still we pushed on ; passing several flourishing English farms, enclosed and cultivated with great care. Occasionally we fell in with parties of

natives, frequenting the same road, from whom we learned that the Umlaas River was really all but impassable. Meanwhile our elder driver was protesting that we were going wrong, and had better give up the journey.

We reached the said dangerous ford about two p.m.; and sent a Caffre, who was a good swimmer, to ascertain the depth of water; and found it under five feet, but running very rapidly. The next business was to pass the luggage and provisions over, high and dry, on the Caffre's head; after which, we ventured into the stream with the cart and oxen. Just midway the cart began to float, the cattle swimming meanwhile, and we narrowly escaped an accident from the disengagement of one ox from the cart. Happily, the other answered to the Caffre's appeal—"Doontz-Marée! Doontz!" (pull, Marée, pull!) and so brought all safe to land.

It was necessary to rest the cattle before proceeding; we therefore outspanned, on the grassy plain beyond the river, to prepare dinner, and were speedily visited by a large party of natives from the neighbourhood; in all probability attracted by the novelty of our mysterious conveyance, which could at once float over rivers and afford shelter from the howling storm. With these we held a lengthened conversation, and about four p.m. started afresh on our journey: our elder Caffre still persisting in his ignorance of the road; although it was as good a highway as could be desired, barring the temporary effects of the recent rains.

It was quite late on Saturday night when we arrived at Richmond, having been twelve hours in performing twenty-five miles. The native postman, who left the capital at two p.m., overtook us just entering the township; and gave a

timely warning that the River Illovo, which unfortunately separates the parsonage from the church and parish, was quite impassable, even for horsemen; and, further, that there was danger of outspanning the cattle amongst the unseen gardens and corn-fields everywhere scattered about. We therefore encamped, there and then, under shelter of some high trees, and anxiously looked forward to the returning daylight.

The good people of Richmond had been duly apprised by their rector before leaving, that their old friend of former days would perform the service during his absence; but were somewhat taken by surprise at sunrise to find us encamped right in the midst of them; and it is only due to their unfeigned hospitality to state that, from all quarters, we received invitations to join their family circles and spend the Sabbath: not being able to cross over to the parsonage, in consequence of the flooded state of the river.

The original Richmond had considerably altered; the actual town or village having decreased as to the number of its houses, though it had wonderfully advanced in real prosperity: many excellent buildings and well-planted orchards having replaced the temporary huts and garden plots of its earlier days; besides that the beautiful country all round had been dotted over with comfortable homesteads. Close by our rendezvous stood the new National School—a substantial building, and about half-a-mile further on we found a very comfortable colonial church. There were also some good stores, and a magistrate's residence, post-office, water-mill, and one or two colonial hotels.

Arriving at the church shortly before service time, I had the pleasure of meeting many old faces. We could not help

bringing to mind our first acquaintance : the spot being at no very great distance from where some of the number, with myself, had spent the rainy night in the roofless out-house ; because the only house in the then village was over full. One of the principal actors in that scene was the first that extended his friendly hand at the church door. Prosperity had well rewarded his enterprise ; and it seemed but a brief interval since I saw him, like the rest, starting on his colonial career. Before service commenced the good people showed us how their church was raised, some persons contributing stone, others cartage, others money, and the rest labour. “Mr. So-and-So” did the carpentering, and “Friend So-and-So” the painting, glazing, roofing, &c.,—a most excellent arrangement, by which a colonial church may be raised at a comparatively trifling expense ; to say nothing of the good feeling thus cemented together with the stones of the sacred edifice.

The church was very well filled with thriving settlers, many having come two or three miles. I took for my text a verse which I thought likely to strike the attention of persons engaged, more or less, with draught oxen ; and one, moreover, likely to be overlooked in an outlying colonial district, where a considerable effort must be made to reach a place of worship, or to support the ordinances of religion. The verse I refer to will be familiar to all—“Take my yoke upon you”—(Matt. xi. 29) ; connecting with it Isaiah’s declaration—“The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib ; but Israel doth not know ; my people doth not consider.—(Isa. i. 3.)

By rights, we ought to have held an afternoon-service at Byrne Town nine miles distant ; but as the direct road was

blocked up by the river, and it would be impossible to reach the church by daylight by taking the old circuitous route, we decided on having an afternoon-service at Richmond; dining in the interval with the churchwarden, a Scotch gentleman, and passing the evening with a family on a farm at the extremity of the village.

Taking leave of the kind people, after a late tea, we found our way back to our frail encampment; thanks to the assistance of a friend. Barely had he taken leave, however, before the faint but quickly repeated glimmering of distant lightning, in the dark horizon, warned us that a midnight storm was brewing. Within an hour the earth trembled under a terrific tempest; and just as I and Mrs. M. were suggesting the propriety of beating a retreat to the church, the friendly voice of a colonist hailed from a neighbouring verandah, and invited us to exchange the dangerous proximity of the cart for comfortable quarters in his commodious and substantial dwelling; thanks to the good man and his family for their consideration; though, I fear, we hardly deserved it, having twice declined his pressing invitation during the day previous.

Purposing a trip to Byrne Town next day, we made a few early calls in the neighbourhood before setting out. The shrewd son of one of the colonists here unravelled our driver's aversion to the journey: having recognised the elder Caffre as a man who had earned a bad name, a year or two previously, while working for a sawyer at Byrne Town. Still the driver stood out manfully; notwithstanding that the young Englishman called him by his former name, and mentioned different subjects to prove his assertion.

As we proceeded on the way to Byrne Town, the Caffre

became very much confused at being recognised continually by old acquaintances; till at length he gave in, and admitted that he formerly worked for the master as stated by the English youth, materially shaking the great confidence we had hitherto placed in him.

We halted to cook dinner rather earlier than usual that day; on finding a large troop of Caffre lads, perhaps thirty or forty, exercising at a sham fight. They naturally flocked round our cart directly we outspanned, and soon recommenced their mimic battle for our amusement. One part of their tactics was very interesting; a grown-up Caffre, with a shield and supple switch, represented the supposed enemy; the lads, armed in like manner, constituted the Caffre army. Whenever these could be drawn or driven into a compact body, the older Caffre, who knew how to use his cane freely, made sad havoc amongst the youngsters; who instantly dispersed, and dodged behind thickets and stones to bring their foe into a disadvantageous position, where he could be attacked in front and rear at the same moment; when, of course, he came in for a good share of their compliments. At hurling the assegai, the Caffres in this locality seemed less expert than any I had seen before, very few being able to hit an ordinary-sized mark at twenty or thirty paces. Having rewarded the performers for their trouble, we formed a ring and held a long discussion with them on their ideas of futurity; preparatory to a fuller statement of the Scriptural revelation on that subject; concluding, as usual, with singing and the Lord's Prayer: which latter always appeared to attract the most profound attention amongst the natives, young or old.

Dismissing our new acquaintances, with a recommendation

to seek further instruction at the nearest mission station, we hastened on to Byrne Town; where a gentleman kindly took us in, and showed every hospitality, accompanying us during a portion of the succeeding day while rambling in that wild but romantic region.

Quitting Byrne Town, we narrowly escaped an accident in crossing the Illovo, to call at the parsonage before returning to Maritzburg. The ford, to which we had been directed, had three or four large stepping-stones; on which a passenger might possibly spring, so as to pick his way dryshod, by daylight—that is to say when the water was down. Not venturing to cross with the cart after dark, we left one Caffre in charge on the Maritzburg road; while we, with the younger—a good swimmer,—made our way over on foot as well as we could. Finding the water was nearly up to the Caffre's shoulders, we promised him an extra threepence if he succeeded in guiding us safely from rock to rock; at the second stone we found the water so deep that with the greatest difficulty Mrs. M. could keep her footing, and the Caffre's premium rose to sixpence; the third stone, in the centre of the narrow stream, was still worse, and another threepence was added. Here the Caffre hesitated to venture forward, and I had to jump down into the cold torrent to assist Mrs. M. over to the opposite bank; which, even with the Caffre's help, was no very easy task, owing to the slippery condition of the rocky bed of the stream. We made his reward up to a shilling on getting safely landed, and well he earned it.*

Next day, pursuing our homeward course, we fell in with

* I see, by the colonial papers, that a Caffre and an Englishman have since been lost at this ford.

several of the scattered homesteads ; and accepted a kind invitation to dinner from an old colonial friend, Mr. Bazeley, a most sensible and practical man. I was much struck at a plan proposed by him to the Government for the improvement of the natives : namely, of instituting Caffre industrial examinations every year at the various magistracy's ; at which substantial prizes should be given to those natives who excelled in ploughing, fencing, mowing, reaping, or the like ; also that rewards should be given to encourage servants to continue with *one employer*, rather than change about for an extra sixpence a month, or from mere caprice.

On arriving at our cottage home, after a week's ramble, we found sad tidings awaiting the elder of our two drivers ; a messenger having come down from his wife's village, in the upper districts, to say that one of the great rivers had overflowed its banks, and swept away a large quantity of standing corn ; on the produce of which, as it afterwards turned out, he had been reckoning for the purchase of a second wife.

The event was the more remarkable as it confirmed a lesson I had often striven to impress on this Caffre, (who in many respects might be regarded as an exemplary convert), namely, that the breach of a solemn promise given to a missionary on any subject, such as the renouncing of polygamy or the like, is a sin, like that of Ananias and Sapphira, which will always bring down a manifest retaliation in the sight of men, as well as its condemnation in the world to come. I might add that it was this man who, on first receiving tidings of the gospel, offered to pay ten shillings a-year to the church, as well as seven shillings to Government, for the privilege of an additional wife.

CHAPTER VIII.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE REFUGEES—WIFE TRADING—SKETCHES FROM COLONIAL LIFE—MOSQUITOES, AND THEIR WARNINGS—CAFFRE RETALIATION—SUNDAY AT AN OUTLYING FARM—MOON-LIGHT NATIVE GATHERING—SHELTER IN A GOAT HOUSE—GRASS BURNING.

I THINK the greatest barrier to Caffre civilisation is the relationship that exists between the petty chiefs and their people. One of these head-men, perhaps, will have fourteen wives, some with grown-up families by former husbands; again, there will be his own ten or twelve younger brothers, and each of their half-dozen wives, all under the head-man's control; added to which will be a number of refugees and outcasts that may have claimed kindred by marriage, or have been claimed on the strength of some family tie; so that, altogether, one of these unclad minor chiefs will have control over two or three hundred huts, and over several hundred men and women.

Now, notice, each married woman has a separate hut for herself and her younger children; while the grown-up youths mass together by scores; so that the tax of seven shillings a hut is nearly represented by the number of Caffre wives in one of these petty tribes. For this amount the one head-man is responsible: consequently he divides the burden up in proportion to the number of villages within his jurisdiction, and orders so many young men from each village, or group of

craals, to go and work with the colonists till their combined wages will cover the yearly tax-money.

Of course the orphans and most friendless youths are those selected for this unjust service; and every farthing of their earnings, month after month, is drained into the head-man's purse; without leaving the poor earners a shilling to purchase clothes or comforts, beyond a rough cotton blanket, a checked shirt, and a girdle; without which they are forbidden the towns by the municipal authorities.

The only equivalent that I could ever trace to the young man, for the use of his earnings in paying the family tax, was that a nominal ownership was assigned to him of a certain number of oxen in the common family herd; but, mark, a Caffre possessed of eight or ten of such cattle has not leave to sell them in order to purchase land or anything for his real benefit; but, by native usage, must barter them away for one particular thing, or have them eaten up by the family at large; and that one thing is nothing more or less than purchasing a new member into the family, or craal, in the shape of a wife; who, by-the-bye, for cheapness, is not unfrequently an aged widow, at the outset of an enterprising young Caffre's career.

The Caffre on marrying becomes a recognised member of the community, and his wife immediately builds herself a hut preparatory to breaking up a field for Indian corn: at which agreeable task (?) the poor old lady is kept pretty closely, for ten or twelve hours a day, until the produce of the corn, and her *husband's* fresh earnings, enable him to purchase a second widow, and so on. At last the young fellow has corn and property sufficient to meet the high price now set upon a *young* native woman, (which, owing to the enormous

demand, has risen from *ten* to *fifty* pounds sterling ; and even more in many instances). When the thriving man can boast a half-dozen young wives, and as many elder matrons, he arrives at the glorious state, in Caffre estimation, of maintaining a family of fifty or sixty children without greater care or toil than that required to cane refractory wives, and mark out the amount of arable land to be cultivated by the old ladies ; or perchance to take spears and dogs for a day's hunting in the nearest thickets.

The reader will not fail to draw two conclusions from the preceding remarks. First, that it is hopeless to expect young men to work, with any spirit, so long as the money earned goes into the hands of parties for whom they have no more real attachment than a policeman has for his superintendent ; for, even in the event of looking forward to earning a widow, after five or six years' toil, it is not to be expected that work, undertaken with such an object in view, would prove of much benefit to the European employers ; which, I think, is the real secret why native labour has not hitherto been thought worth anything, except for the most ordinary purposes. And, secondly, the reader will agree that it is hopeless to introduce civilised habits amongst the people so long as polygamy is the national savings'-bank wherein all the native wealth is invested ! The channel of the Zulu Caffre's ideas of wealth and greatness must be wholly diverted ; he must learn to set a value on fixed property, and to obtain a house, garden, fields, and homestead before he will derive any benefit from the acquirement of reading, writing, arithmetic, music, and drawing, as taught in some of the mission institutions.

As an inducement to our own servants to work more cheer-

fully Mrs. M. instituted small money prizes, quite independent of their wages ; such as a half-a-crown for the one that hoed the largest piece of ground in a week, or a shilling for the most diligent in every-day work, or threepence for those who had not smoked or used tobacco during the month, and so on ; whereby a careful man might easily obtain an extra shilling or two in the month ; and all that was so earned we claimed the right of withholding from the head-men or petty chiefs, in order that the earners might lay it out in clothes, or other useful articles, for their own comfort : a plan that I can strongly recommend to all engaged amongst Caffres.

As the dry season was fast setting in our rambles became more frequent, and less arduous ; the last in the upland districts was to an English professional man, the proprietor of several thousand acres, who kindly invited us to hold a Sunday service at his house, and spend a few days about in his neighbourhood, where there were large numbers of Refugee-Zulus. At the risk of being tedious I must give some of the details of this journey.

The direct route, let me observe, was about thirty miles ; we, however, made a considerable circuit on the outward journey ; intending to spend the first night under canvas, and to reach our friend's farm at sundown the second day (that is on the Saturday night), ready for the next day's service.

The district through which the first part of the journey lay was very fertile, and was fast filling up with a thriving English agricultural population. Nothing could be more interesting than to observe the different stages of progress, and prosperity, exhibited at the several homesteads lying right and left of the waggon-track. Here would be a prim red-brick slated dwelling—spacious, compact, and comfort--

able; with gardens, and newly banked-in fields, stretching up the hillside in the rear. There, again, close by, would be the temporary hut of some unfortunate bachelor-emigrant; newly arrived in the colony, with his cooking apparatus outside the door—his linen drying on the bushes near at hand—his newly-broken field, with the plough still sticking in the furrow, open day and night to the inroads of roving cattle—his Caffre servant-men squatting round the embers of the noontide fire, snuffing and making merry; while he, poor weary man, with his cart, and straggling span of oxen, has gone to town to purchase seed-corn, or meal, or groceries.

Further on, perhaps, you find the happy state of transition: where the original tumble-down hovel is just propped up, until the new and more commodious homestead is finished. What a picture for the artist in such a case! Pigs, children, goats, and calves all running about together; with a stalwart Caffre nurse-girl gnawing an ear of roasted Indian corn, clutched in the right hand, while grinning, and dandling the last addition to the good man's family circle. Not far off will be the busy English dame herself, tending the poultry and watching the open-air churning performance. And, close by, the favourite staghound is sitting contentedly, with one eye scanning the butter-milk tub, and the other bent upon his young master—saddling up old Hobby for an evening's canter, with the gun. While, ever and anon, the stillness is relieved by the merry ringing trowel of a light-hearted English journeyman: earning his six or eight shillings a-day; or by the saw, saw, saw, of some young amateur carpenter; who, with half-a-dozen fiddle-faddle natives, are all helping forward the substantial new family residence one way or another.

The first night overtook us just outspanning amongst a

patch of scattered mimosa bushes, covering the extensive lowlands at the foot of Otto's Bluff—one of the many sights, at Natal, that well repay the traveller for a day's trip from Maritzburg. Standing out boldly in the landscape, amongst the lesser hills, in proportion, and form, very like the hinder quarters of a long-woolled sheep amongst a crop of turnips, in our English scenery.

Our encampment was rather too near a large swamp to be healthy; as we quickly discovered, the moment candles were lighted, by the attacks of the mosquitoes. It is worth notice that these troublesome visitors (at Natal, at least,) confine their quarters to the low, and unhealthy, vicinity of swamps: seldom being found on the higher ground; from which I had erroneously supposed, in my first visit to the colony, that there were no such insects there. Despite the sudden twinge that one of these intruders occasionally produced, we could not help admiring the power, and wisdom, of that Providence, which could thus place myriads of wakeful sentinels over those unhealthy spots; not merely to warn people against loitering there; but to hurry them away into safer localities by the acuteness of their tiny sting!

From a little conversation with the natives in this locality, we gathered that their master, Mr. Otto, a Dutch gentleman, treated them with great kindness; most of them having adopted him as their recognised head. It was surprising to see what a difference there was between them, and the ordinary Caffres: not merely as to clothing, and property; but, more than all, in their respectful and contented demeanour.

During the next day's journey, over several square miles of open country, quite devoid of bush or timber of any description, we had the misfortune to break the draught pole short

off close by the foot-board: entirely through the neglect of the Caffre leader, who took one wheel into a large jackall's hole, nearly as deep as his own head: happily without injuring Mrs. M., whom I had just previously left riding on the vehicle.

At this point we were within six or eight miles of our destination, as the crow flies; but more than twenty by any practicable route; owing to the River Umgeni being impassable, except at a ford five miles to the right. The noon-day heat, too, was very oppressive; and we had no water with us—not anticipating any delay on an open plain. The reader therefore will not be surprised that we were both vexed and annoyed at a detention of a couple of hours, while I spliced the fractured pole. Nor will he think it hard that Mrs. M. should tell the careless leader that he had forfeited his good-conduct prize for the trip: though, as events will show, she had to pay the penalty for mentioning it before the journey was completed.

Returning to our vehicle. Having rectified the mishap we soon were under weigh, and reached the Umgeni ford about four p.m.; where a fresh delay occurred, owing to the state of the river; which rendered it advisable to send Mrs. M. over in a ferry-boat, kept close by. I, and the Caffre, with the cart, got through safely by a little careful management of the oxen. A few miles beyond this we stumbled on a new farm-house, standing in the midst of a six-thousand acre grant, occupied by a Cambridge Master of Arts: where, I need hardly say, a hearty welcome awaited us; with a pressing invitation to spend the night: a thing, however, quite impossible, as ten miles yet remained to be accomplished.

The sun was setting when we resumed our course; but a

beacon fire on a lofty hill at the back of the farm, whither we were bound, enabled us to continue the journey after dusk, and to steer over the open country ; so that I doubt not we should have reached our destination, had not an awkward rivulet intercepted the track, about nine p.m., within a couple of miles of our friend's abode. Not thinking it prudent to hazard a wetting by crossing in the dark and cold, we pitched our tent and ransacked a neighbouring kloof for fuel, of which we secured enough for cooking purposes ; but nevertheless, had to pass a miserably cold night: owing to the great elevation of the country.

While the Caffre was preparing for a start, next morning, at daybreak ; I took pen and ink, and sat down on a stone to add a few lines to my sermon ; but, on looking up, found time had slipped away so rapidly that my two companions had crossed the stream and were almost out of sight. On overtaking them, I found that the Caffre had vented his spite on Mrs. M., for stopping his prize-money on the previous day. It appeared that from some misgivings, on reaching the rivulet, Mrs. M. preferred crossing by the ordinary stepping-stones, to trusting herself to the cart and driver. However the latter, with true Caffre politeness, ran to lend a hand in guiding her from stone to stone ; and, disarming suspicion by his pleasant smile, managed to upset her into about three feet of water.—A very disagreeable commencement of the Sabbath.

As we traversed the few remaining miles to our friend's abode, now clearly distinguishable on a high plateau, only approachable by a very circuitous road, it was impossible not to mark how Sunday seemed written on all creation ; birds and beasts, grass, hills, and forests, all seemed hushed into silence. Almost an awful stillness reigned : the sky so clear

above, the air so fresh below; fragrant and beauteous flowers all around; combined to impress the mind with the great sanctity of the hallowed day! Rebel man alone marred the picture! His echoing axe, within a neighbouring forest, ever and anon told the sad tale! We listened, stopped, and shouted: when, from the deep recesses of a tangled wood came forth a brawny Zulu, axe in hand; who, to our remonstrance that it was Sunday, urged in return the plea of great necessity.—And how often we hear that same excuse from persons who, like that Caffre, have a whole week at their free disposal, to perform all really necessary work.

Quitting the regular waggon-track, we took a direct line for our friend's house; up a narrow gorge, worn by the scour of floods during the great tempests. It appeared that now and then a horseman ventured up that gully; but no vehicle had ever travelled there before. We were delayed a little, when nearly at the top, by a huge fragment of rock, and the skeleton of a dead horse; but having passed the baggage up by hand; and made the oxen scramble up without the cart; we managed to raise the latter, and once more yoking the cattle, were quickly at our destination.

We had anticipated a good congregation, having been invited to come and reside permanently amongst the wealthy colonists in that neighbourhood; but, owing to the non-delivery of my letter promising to come out for a single Sunday, only about a dozen souls were assembled for divine worship. I took for my text, Acts x. 34; and though dispensing with pulpit, gown, and surplice, felt that I was discharging my duty in my Master's sight; as much as when I have been ministering to as many hundreds, within the consecrated walls of an English church.

The same evening we had a very large gathering of heathen natives, at a kraal close by: where our driver lodged during his stay. The attention of these natives was the more readily drawn to the nature of our visit, from the fact of one of their number having once learned a considerable portion of the Lord's Prayer, while in service with a Christian employer. This he had so far discussed with his brethren that they attentively listened to the further explanation of the gospel message, which we ever carried about with us. And, besides, our driver had introduced his favorite hymn to the tune of "Greenland's Icy Mountains."

The kind proprietor, and his estimable lady, insisted upon our remaining with them for some days: which we spent most agreeably in rambling about in the neighbourhood. And, one day, having killed a fat ox, they invited all the surrounding Caffres to come to a moonlight pic-nic, at the homestead: where, having feasted to their heart's content, they assembled to go through the Caffre war-dance, on the extensive paved terrace behind the house: the details of which I ought to give, as it was one of the most interesting sights we met with during our mission tour.

Having finished a hearty evening meal; we, with our kind friends, and their family, all turned out on to the terrace, and awaited the arrival of the Caffres. It was, indeed, a glorious night. The round full moon so soft and placid, (and bright enough to make small print readable,) the breeze so sweet and genial that hats and bonnets were quite forgotten. Everything seemed wrapped in silent peace; when, at a given signal, a compact body of Zulu warriors entered the broad arena; and with ferocious looks, and gestures still more violent, commenced their war-dance with a

wild unearthly yell, softened at times almost into melody only to give way to some fresh burst of savage glee. At times, the ground fairly shook beneath the simultaneous stamp; while the glittering spears, and fantastic shields, flitting about, amid a chaos of confusion, suggested to the mind the full horrors of a Caffre battle-field.

Dancing over, and silence once more restored, I spoke a few words to the warriors, and asked them to join in a Caffre hymn: repeating it line by line. The effect was most stirring! The difference between peace and war being scarcely less striking than the difference between the war-song just concluded, and the deep but solemn intonations of the Christian hymn. Again I addressed them on the subject of religion, and again led them with a Caffre hymn; concluding with the Lord's Prayer, all kneeling spontaneously with their foreheads on the ground, and joining in the petitions with most reverent voice.

As our friend's new house was still unroofed; and his old one was limited for sleeping room, we insisted on using our cart tent, rather than displace any of the children. One night a most unexpected tempest swept over the country, shortly after retiring to rest; and, as the farm-house had been struck a few weeks previously, we felt somewhat alarmed in consequence of the ironwork about the cart being round us on all sides. For shelter from the wind, we had pitched our cart about a quarter of a mile from the house; hard by some large booths, where the flocks of merinos were enclosed at night on account of leopards. Not venturing through the long grass to the house, we quitted our tent, and sought shelter in the nearest booth—a large thatched building, built of rough planks. Here we stood trembling, as flash after

flash blazed by ; and to make the matter worse, it happened that we had chosen the goats' house : which bellicose animals quickly formed a league, with the determination to expel us from their domicile : so that at each successive flash, we had the spectacle of a row of curled horned rascals waiting to make a plunge at our knees. Fortunately I had a good cudgel, or we should have fared ill before the storm abated sufficiently to justify a return to the cart.

While on this subject, I ought to observe that a Natal flock-master has to exercise great judgment in the management of his grass. If left to grow to its natural length, it would be a foot or two above the sheeps' backs ; and not only would become too coarse, but would be so intolerably hot, from want of air, that the flock would soon perish. So again the young grass that first springs up, after burning, is too washy for a week or two. The farmer therefore divides his grass into several blocks, of perhaps a thousand acres each, and burns off a block every month or two, so as to keep up a succession of useful feed.

Much annoyance is often experienced by the colonists who have permitted refugee natives to settle on their farms. These black gentry like to have a grass-burning on a windy day for the fun of the thing : so that, for their sport, they very frequently thwart their landlord's arrangements for the year's feed for his flock. To say nothing of the corn-stacks, and buildings, that are often destroyed through the extension of the conflagration over many miles of country.

To guard against this, the gentleman with whom we sojourned made it a rule that if any of his refugees kindled a grass-fire, without permission, (to ensure cutting off the portion to be burned,) they should either quit the estate, or

pay a fine of the choicest ox in their herd. Not long before our arrival, a Caffre had been convicted of this offence; and, to the surprise of everybody, sent over a very fine ox. However, being the first conviction, the gentleman kindly sent it back, and retained a small beast worth but a trifle, much to the Caffre's chagrin; for, making sure that the Englishman would not refuse the splendid ox first sent, the fellow had given it a dose of poison, from which it died the very same evening. As it happened, however, his double loss well requited him for his baseness!

Strange as it may appear, no amount of past kindness will allay a Caffre's thirst for spite, or petty revenge, if an opportunity presents within a day or two of his taking offence. Thus our driver deliberately wrung the handle off the corn mill, at this farm, because he was bade grind some corn for the family; of which by-the-bye he would have had his share. And worse still during our homeward journey, on which the lady and a friend accompanied us a mile or two (one on a horse, and the other riding with Mrs. M., in the little vehicle;) for, taking advantage of my absence, the Caffre managed to drive so badly as to turn the cart completely upside down; throwing the ladies out headlong; fortunately without any serious injury to them: though, of course, it entailed the trouble of making a new tent-top, after our return to the capital: where, it is hardly needful to state, we took the first opportunity of engaging a fresh driver.

CHAPTER IX.

RESULTS OF THE FIRST YEAR'S WORK—PROPOSED VISIT TO THE COAST DISTRICTS—A SUNDAY AT DURBAN—THE UMGENI FORDS—AN AFRICAN BUSH-ROAD—MISHAP TO THE WHEEL—COAST SETTLEMENTS—THE UMHLALI PARSONAGE.

TWELVE months slipped rapidly away while thus engaged in the capital, and its vicinity. Many town Caffres had by this time adopted our little cottage home as their nightly rendezvous, and their Sunday afternoon gathering point. Some of my old servants of former years had also heard of our mission, and occasionally paid us a visit. One, in particular, "Captain John," of rather unenviable notoriety, came and begged a lodging in our kitchen; being engaged in occasional work with a town blacksmith; and, I think, showed some redeeming points in his character: though, by-the-bye, he stoutly denied his identity, to the very last. Little Jonas, too, sent repeated messages by brothers who had formerly worked for us; but, having taken a second wife, was ashamed to show his face, notwithstanding the frequent messages and invitations that passed.

Great numbers had by this time acquired the Lord's Prayer, thoroughly; and, I ~~fain~~ would trust, not without effect: more perhaps than they themselves were aware of. Thus, one lad of nineteen, (Monyaease,) who had been with us some months, returned to his craal amongst the Amas-

wazi tribe, a hundred miles beyond our station ; but, before he had been home a week, missed the prayers, scripture lessons, and singing, so much ; that he set off on foot to rejoin our service ; bringing a half-brother, "Mattrose" with him ; and, according to his own account, with difficulty prevented a little sister accompanying them : merely from the narrative he gave of what he had learned.

A gratifying mark of good feeling, on the part of the working town Caffres, displayed itself in their universal recognition whenever met in the streets. And, on one occasion, while I was preaching in the cathedral, a number of the poor fellows congregated at the door : thinking, no doubt, that as it was their minister they ought to have the right of coming in ; but it appeared were forbidden, much to their chagrin. I feel sure they would have conducted themselves reverently, from their demeanour at our private services ; and I think it would have been very beneficial to them to see the manner in which the regular full service was performed.

Just as we completed our first year's mission work, in Maritzburg, a most unexpected request was forwarded to us from the coast district : to go and take Archdeacon Mackenzie's parish gratuitously for a month, during his temporary illness. That, however, I was unable to do at the moment : not thinking it right to break up our establishment at Maritzburg, to recommence it again for the remaining six or eight months allotted to our stay in the colony ; nor feeling safe in leaving our house, garden, and goods, for so long a period, while distant more than a hundred miles. At the same time I offered to take the post, gratuitously, for the remainder of my ministry in Natal, in the

event of the archdeacon deciding on a visit to England, for six months, as had been suggested by his friends.

My offer being eventually accepted, we advertised the materials of our cottage for sale that day fortnight: packed up one cart-load of luggage; left Mattrose in charge of the rest, and the cottage; dismissed our town congregation; and started for the Umhlali parsonage, with Monyaease driving. The load being so heavy that Mrs. M. accompanied me on foot; riding for a mile or two occasionally, on level ground.

It was Thursday noon when we started, and by sundown we had reached Uysdoorn's forest, on the Durban route. The only road, at that time, being by the sea-port. At Uysdoorn's we rested the cattle, and dined by the failing twilight, beside the rippling rivulet that winds along that forest dale. And resuming the journey, shortly after dark, accomplished upwards of twenty miles before halting permanently for the night.

Here let me mention a new expedient we had adopted for our two draught cattle. Generally, waggoners employ twelve or fourteen oxen; and, at nightfall, lash them to the waggon to prevent their straying; till daylight enables a Caffre to overlook them, while grazing. Or else they turn them adrift at dusk, and run the risk of destroying some unwary farmer's standing crop. Quite accidentally we discovered, a few weeks previously, that cattle would not only live, but fatten, on the stems of the Indian corn plant; simply by cutting, and drying the straw, in sheaves, after the ears were plucked. We therefore carried a few bundles of this provender behind the cart; and, whenever we outspanned after dark, tied the oxen up and gave them a sheaf. Consequently, as there was no occasion for them to ramble in search of fresh grass,

they quietly laid down on the spot,—munching until they fell asleep; and, instead of being ravenously hungry at day-break, were ready to begin their journey during the fresh cool hours of early dawn.

I will not narrate the incidents of the journey to Durban; beyond stating that we accomplished thirty miles the second day, and reached the sea-port easily by the close of the next: with our heavy load and single pair of oxen, having overtaken and passed upwards of fifty waggons: without being overtaken by one, full or empty.

The following day being Sunday, I made arrangements for four partial services in the town, and neighbourhood; to preach at nine, a.m., to the garrison—to take the full morning service at the principal church—with a short service, between times, to a large gang of Caffre convicts—(the first that had been held at the Port)—and the full afternoon service at a hamlet four miles distant; just within the verge of the parish to which I had been temporarily nominated.—With the conditional engagement for a portion of the night service, at Durban, if able to return in time.

I need hardly say that we had several pressing invitations to lodge with kind friends in the town. Being unwilling, however, to bring the cart and cattle very far on to the sandy plain, on which Durban stands, we skirted the Berea hills on good grass, and encamped amidst a clump of bush half-way between the localities where my morning and afternoon duty laid. There, close by a spring of water, we rigged our tent, procured supplies of fresh provisions from the town,—and rested the cattle all Sunday, while engaged as before stated.

Quitting Durban betimes, on Monday morning, we toiled along with our heavy load, over the rush-clad plain that

stretches beneath the Berea hills : till we entered a tract of country slightly elevated ; with numerous comfortable villa residences, in productive gardens, peeping out here and there from amidst the deep-green forest scenery. Beyond this lay a region devoted to brick making, and half-a-mile further still came the Umgeni river—one of the most picturesque streams imaginable : upwards of five hundred yards in width ; sweeping swiftly but noiselessly over a sandy bed, at a depth varying from one to five feet : according to seasons and localities.

Standing on the Durban bank, you might fancy yourself on the shore of some lovely lake : beyond which lay a fine range of hills, clothed with timber trees and evergreens, quite to the water's edge, save where the sand-stone rock peeped out, or some gaunt granite crag reared far aloft its rugged head. And there, amidst fantastic Nature's choicest scenery, lay smiling homesteads, and well-fenced fields of cane, or arrowroot : with patches of deep-red soil, fresh ploughed ; or some half-finished cottage ; or, more striking to the eye, the canvas tops of a train of sugar-waggons wending their way to the sea-port. While, far away to the left, the tall black tops of distant sugar-mills puffed out their clouds of smoke over the once pathless forest.

The actual depth of this river is not so formidable as the dangerous holes are, that are continually being scoured out in the quicksands by the eddy of the current. These unseen pools shift their position from day to day : so that travellers crossing on horseback, or with waggons, are frequently getting a ducking : with the disagreeable idea of being attacked by an alligator, while floundering about in the deep water. The effect of which has been greatly to retard the

colonisation of the rich district lying between the Umgeni and Tugella Rivers. Which, though sixty miles apart, formed the northern and southern limits of my parish.

In the absence of causeway, bridge, or ferry-boat, our only alternative was to drive through in the cart : at the risk of wetting all our luggage, provisions and bedding. However, by taking half the load over at a time, and placing all perishable articles high and dry on the cart-box, beside Mrs. M., out of the reach of water, we hoped to avoid any great inconvenience.

Thus prepared, we descended the sloping bank into the stream—Monyaease leading the way with a rein, while I steadied the cart and whipped the oxen. Half-way across, however, the Caffre screamed and went headlong, with cattle and cart, into one of the treacherous pools. Fortunately I had firm hold and kept the vehicle from turning over, without getting into the hole myself ; and, in less time than I can describe, the noble oxen dashed out of the predicament, and floundered up on to a shoal of sand barely six inches under water ; where we all rested to recover breath, before attempting to gain the opposite shore.

Once safely out of the deep pool, our first concern was to look after sundry articles that had been lying at the bottom of the cart. All had floated out during the momentary immersion ! And, on looking down the stream, we discovered my only hat, Mrs. M's bonnet-box, a pail, and numerous minor articles, all engaged in a highly-exciting race, towards the neighbouring ocean. The floating articles were quickly overtaken ; but some of the heavier things sank, and were only recovered by the Caffre for the sake of the premium he would receive on their being fished up : though I strongly

dissuaded the man from venturing into deep water, on account of the alligators which are continually carrying off, or maiming, venturesome natives.

Every one, who knows that river, wonders that nothing has been attempted for the improvement of the existing crossing, or else to construct a new one higher up the stream: there being no means of communication between the sea-port and the two most flourishing counties in the colony, (Victoria, and Umvoti,) except by the present dangerous fords. A few feet beneath the sandy bed of the stream, is a solid strata of rock: on which might be raised a causeway of rough stone, forty or fifty feet wide, and fifteen deep; having open brick tunnels for the ordinary flow of water, which (except after storms,) seldom exceeds two feet. An unlimited supply of suitable stone is on the spot; and as to the argument of colonial engineers that, "the force of water would burst any such dam;" I reply, it possibly might if thrown across in a straight line; but if curved, so as to form an arch against the stream; then, the greater the pressure, the stronger the work: provided, of course, that the extremities of the arched causeway rested on rocky banks, where there would be no possibility of the water bursting open a new channel. Such a position, indeed, as that near Bishop's drift would be very suitable, where the rocky hills rise from the water's edge. I may observe that such a work might be done during six months of the year when the river has only a few inches of water in it.

A more complete work would be to excavate a road, fourteen or fifteen feet broad, and twelve deep, right across the narrowest part of the bed of the stream; which might be done at almost any period of the year, by damming off

half the river; (and, during the dry six months, might be carried on as easily as a sewer in the London streets.) Over this roadway, cut in the solid rock, a brick arch might be thrown, a foot or so lower than the bed of the stream: and a tunnel would be provided, which would neither suffer from the sudden and extraordinary rise of the river; nor be liable to damage; nor impede the navigation at any future period. (Of course the river itself would turn a wheel and keep such a tunnelled road thoroughly pumped dry).

A carrier once outspanned on the banks of this stream, while flooded; and as his waggon contained a collection of living monsters, for exportation (an alligator amongst the rest.) He turned them out, and chained them up, intending to have a night's rest in the vehicle. Alas! next morning the alligator was missing—chain, collar, and all: having escaped into the river, without paying his fare for a sixty-mile ride from the Tugella.

Returning to our travelling affairs; we had the good fortune to meet a Scotch gentleman on the banks of the river; who, having been a member of the previous day's congregation, at once recognised us, and gave an invitation to join him at dinner. A kindness we were really glad to accept; after being on foot several days, with nothing but roadside camp-fire cookery since we left Maritzburg.

With this hospitable man, and his happy family, we spent a very pleasant hour or two, while the Caffre and cattle rested; preparatory to undertaking nine miles of heavy sand, along a narrow bush road, almost a continuous arcade, from our new friend's abode to the nearest habitation.

The countless and exquisite flowers which formed the arched canopy over this "bush road," afforded both Mrs. M.

and myself an almost unlimited field for study, and a great source of pleasure, though it somewhat retarded the progress, by calling away our attention from the oxen.

We had travelled a couple of hours through this forest: when an accident befel one wheel, and turned the cart upside down. To make the matter worse, the sun was then setting; and, as some passing horsemen informed us, four miles yet intervened between us and the nearest roof. The wheel was smashed; but the Caffre protested against a night's encampment, there and then, on account of the numerous leopards, and the scarcity of water! Fortunately the construction of the wheel differed from those of English make: being bound within the tire by wedges, driven in at the nave; and, on re-arranging the fragments, I found that *only one spoke* had given way: which was speedily replaced from the bush hard by, by the vigorous performance of the Caffre; so that by the time I had put the other portions in their places, the new piece was ready for the wedges; and within an hour we were again on our journey, as if nothing had occurred.

The sensations attendant on a night ramble through a forest, known to abound with leopards, were anything but agreeable: every bush that rustled in the wind, or every frightened bird, that fluttered from roost to roost amid the boughs on high, was sure to produce some intimation of "a tiger" from Monyaease: till we really began to feel uneasy; and gladly beheld the horizon once more peeping through the scattered underwood that proclaimed the near termination of the forest.

A few small homesteads appeared to have sprung up on the skirts of this vast wood; and being within my parochial jurisdiction, no doubt the good proprietors would have

showed us every hospitality; but we preferred our own encampment, and an open-air supper beneath the clear, calm, starry firmament: though we made a point of calling on all within an easy range before starting next morning.

On arriving at the thriving town of Verulam, about noon, next day, we discovered that the report of our break-down, in the forest, had been brought on by the horsemen, before mentioned: and no little surprise was manifested at finding the shattered wheel all right and strong. Here we met with much kindness, and found the people very well disposed towards the church, though professedly most are dissenters. The town may perhaps rank next to Maritzburg and Durban. Its inhabitants being men who know how to develop the resources of the soil. The situation of the place is also most picturesque: being shut in by grassy well-wooded hills. Moreover, it carries on a good deal of trade with the natives, and is a nucleus for the numberless sugar plantations in that important locality.

Perhaps, one of the most picturesque views in Natal is to be gained from the Tongaat waggon road; where it crosses the high hills, about a mile beyond Verulam; whither we wended our way, and outspanned for dinner. Description of that scene is barely possible.—It is quite a fairyland.—A real peep-show on an extensive scale. Houses of every shape, material, and colour: from the old colonist's substantial stone residence, to the settler's cot, and the Christian Caffre's hovel—some thatched, others tiled, a few slated: all surrounded with flourishing gardens: while the nearest hills and slopes partook of the progressive movement, and were fast being dotted over with farms, and plantations: and beautiful above all—sparkling like a silver thread, twined in and out amid the

verdant pastures, the wide-spread river Umhloti (pronounced by the native Zulus, "Umsloti") flowed swiftly towards the adjacent ocean, distant about three miles.

During the afternoon we passed through the extreme corner of Mount Moreland: a scattered township named after Byrnes' colonial agent, at the period of the great emigration. All the settlers in that locality are very prosperous, and have built one of the nicest little churches in the colony. From the churchwarden we received a hearty welcome, and a present of pine-apples; but not venturing to prolong our stay, (on account of a wedding that was to be celebrated with my assistance about twenty-five miles further off:) we pushed on another five miles, and spent the night at the Tongaati: where there is a new village, called Victoria; and one of the largest sugar factories in South Africa, employing about one hundred and fifty pair of hands; and capable of engaging double that number, if obtainable.

Here we spent the greater part of the following day, with the active gentleman and his family who were residing on the plantation, and recruited our strength—all further hurry being needless: as a message had reached us stating that the marriage had been performed by an American missionary, near where the parties resided. Before quitting the Tongaati, our new friend kindly arranged to have an afternoon-service at his residence, for all the settlers at Victoria and the neighbourhood, every Sunday that I could make it convenient to come over from the Umhlali, (Umslarli).

The last-named place is a scattered village, deriving its name from a river so called by the Caffres. There are

several large plantations of sugar, and arrow-root; but the population, with one or two exceptions, are chiefly small proprietors: cultivating their eight or ten acres, and carrying on some little trade in connection. Formerly, there was a large detachment of troops stationed in the neighbourhood, at Fort Scott; which drew together a goodly number of camp-followers. But, after the breaking up the camp, most of the latter took their departure, to engage in trade with the Zulus in their independent territory; north of the Tugella River.

Arriving at the Umhlali parsonage just at dusk, we were somewhat amused at its appearance after the flattering description we had received of its drawing-room, and dormitories: the place being barely habitable. All the rooms were on the ground-floor, and all opened into the garden, without connecting with each other. The walls were of clay; neither painted, papered, nor colour-washed; merely smeared over, inside and out, with sandy mud; though ornamented, three feet deep, with a belt of coal tar: with which odoriferous substance the earthen floors were also overlaid. Most of the doors were blowing backwards and forwards without fastenings: and all the rooms were in the most filthy condition; some vagabond traders and Caffres having recently quartered themselves in one part of the house, and their horses in the principal bedrooms. Of course most of the windows were smashed; and in the various rooms we found numbers of rough strong stakes driven deeply into the floor, and sawn off; probably to form the legs of bedsteads, tables, stools, &c. The upper portions, however, had been burnt, or stolen. The out-buildings were in a very similar condition: all being built

of wood, the inside of which was being devoured by white ants. And, to give the place a still more desolate appearance, the thatch had been stripped off two wings, which connected the house with the outhouses, to prevent the spread of the flames, in the event of fire.

Stifling our disappointment, we made a fire in the open hearth of the principal room, and cooked some supper: but, to our disgust, found that the walls were not carried up to the roof: so that it was impossible to keep a candle burning; except by putting it under a temporary umbrella, in the form of an extempore table.

The roaring of the billows, at the change of tide, warned us during the night of our close contiguity to the sea. And, at dawn of day, we beheld a truly glorious sight, as rosy morn broke in the far east, and diffused its glittering beams upon the placid surface of the Indian ocean. Which, though distant more than a mile, with hills and valleys, fields and forests, intervening, seemed little more than a stone's throw removed; just at the foot of the grassy hill on which the parsonage stood.

All that day was occupied in cleansing the floors, stopping the crevices, and unpacking luggage. The next day or two we devoted to visiting the nearest settlers: who, as colonists always do, showed great kindness. And, on the Sunday, we held morning and afternoon service to a very tolerable and respectable congregation, in a dilapidated building, capable of holding perhaps two hundred persons: which, in the time of the camp, had served as the mess-room for the troops of the garrison.

Having put things a little to rights at the parsonage, and

made engagements to hold morning service every Sunday, after that day fortnight, we prepared for a return trip to Maritzburg: in order to sell our house, and bring down the remainder of our baggage. Moreover, we contemplated attempting a more direct route than that by Durban; cutting across the Isidumbeni and Inanda districts: which, though almost devoid of Europeans, contain a large refugee population.

CHAPTER X.

RETURN JOURNEY TO MARITZBURG—EXTORTIONATE DEMANDS OF A MISSIONARY CAFFRE—THE ISIDUMBENI STATION—MYSTERIOUS APPEARANCE OF A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER—A NIGHT AMONGST CAFFRES—A MORNING STORM UNDER A SYCAMORE—THE GREAT NODESBERG PASS—CROSSING A MORASS—HOSPITALITY OF COLONISTS—COMPLETION OF THE JOURNEY.

UP to this period, our cart had been easily converted into a very comfortable travelling tent; simply by loosing the long curtains, drawing them round, and by sliding the driving-box forward a few feet. Unfortunately, however, the thick thorny-bush, on the coast, made sad havoc with the frail framework of this tent, and its covering: so that, by the close of the second day's homeward journey, we were obliged to cut it all away, and leave the cart without any shelter from the rain, or shade from the noon-day sunbeams.

Towards evening, as we lay encamped beneath a dense grove of water-boom,* cooking dinner over an open air log fire, beside a brook; we were somewhat startled at the appearance of a white man, and two Caffres, who emerged from the forest, and crossed a grassy glade in our direction. The stranger's Caffres, of course, fell to work with our driver, and quietly assisted him in demolishing a quantity of half-roasted sweet potatoes. Their master, who was a naturalist, sat with us for half-an-hour, and gave directions

* An inferior description of rosewood.

about the road through the adjacent country, with which he had become somewhat familiar in his rambles.

From this person we ascertained that there was a solitary farmhouse seven miles in advance ; but a mile or two off our track, to the right hand : whither he intended to wend his steps, as the cool of the day began to set in. We likewise availed ourselves of the evening breeze to inspan and push forward a few miles, before pitching our tent for the night : as our driver expressed great apprehensions as to the safety of the oxen, unless we reached a tract of country less densely wooded : not only from the danger of straying ; but also from the numerous leopards in the jungle.

It was between nine and ten at night, and excessively dark, before we got well clear of the coast lands. The country here became open, but hilly : with occasional strips of forest in the valleys. As soon as we outspanned, I sent the Caffre down to one of the valleys to procure wood, for the watch fire ; but he quickly returned saying there was none. Therefore leaving him to unpack and take care of the cart, I took my hatchet, and went searching : Mrs. M., keeping me within range of the cart by calling at intervals ; till I found a tree, into which I soon climbed, and commenced felling the arms. Directly the Caffre heard the sound of the axe he came off to my assistance ; and after half an hour's work had abundance of fuel for the night. We were less fortunate as to water for coffee ; as the Caffre could not be induced to accompany me, after kindling the fire : so that he had to go to rest supperless, excepting some cold baked potatoes. For, in his perversity, I did not think it worth letting him share our store of bread and cheese and wine.

Our tent was so hurriedly arranged that the cold wind

found its way in one side, and out the other; and when morning broke I was so chilled that I took a run over the hills to some neighbouring kraals, inhabited by mission Caffres, and purchased a bottle of milk for sixpence; telling the Caffre I would pay on his delivering it at the cart. Leaving the man to milk his cows, I returned to our encampment, and assisted in preparing breakfast: which we were about commencing, when the Caffre and his son came in sight. The former halted in a thicket, and sent the lad on with about a quarter of a pint of new milk, for which he demanded sixpence. Of course I declined, and sent the milk back with a message to his father: whereupon the boy called out, and the cunning parent came up with the full bottle, laughed at his supposed cleverness;—and, apologising for his mistake, took the sixpence, poured the milk into a basin, and fell to work with our driver at his breakfast.

We had finished our meal, and were on the point of starting on the day's journey, when the fellow came to Mrs. M. and expressed his regret that he had not demanded a shilling; and finally, becoming extremely violent, declared he would have the extra sixpence before we quitted the spot. However, judging from the production of a *reim* (leathern thong) that he was likely to have a cheap ride to the nearest magistracy, he softened down, and beat a hasty retreat.

We saw no more of the fellow during the day, as we journeyed onwards over many a wild open tract of land; and concluded that the matter was at an end. About noon we passed three or four homesteads occupying a remarkably fine site, on a high and open slope, upwards of twenty miles inland. Beyond this the country rose rapidly, but gradually, for two or three miles; all covered with the richest herbage:

the ascent coming to an abrupt termination, without the least warning, in a line of deep precipices; stretching far away right and left: down which we found an old and dangerous path in a ravine, the very appearance of which almost made one despair. Little did we *then* imagine that it would ever be our lot, as it afterwards happened, to bring our frail cart up the rocky gorge, with a heavy load, and a pair of over-worked oxen. To the left we discovered a tolerable waggon road just cut, at great expense, by Government, to open up a road to Greytown, and to an extensive American mission station that lay far away to the right, down on the deep plain at our feet.

The tract of country before us appeared like one vast amphitheatre, surrounded by walls of impassable ruggedness. Craggs, and precipices, skirted it as far as the eye could range: leaving a splendid tract of land, say of ten or fifteen square miles, spread out like a beautiful panorama, perhaps five hundred feet perpendicularly below us.

Descending cautiously into the vast basin: we found that, instead of being an even plain, it was quite a hilly country; with a considerable Caffre population scattered about, amongst the minor valleys and thickets. All the natives in this locality appeared to be prosperous, so far as corn, cows, wives, and children indicated. They were also very willing to converse, and spoke highly of their missionary, Mr. Tyler, an American; for whom we had a note, from a friend in my new parish, to be delivered if we had an opportunity; which unfortunately we had not; as the station lay a mile or two wide of our track.

After outspanning, for dinner, on the farther side of the broad valley, at the foot of a stupendous range of rocky

hills; and whilst rambling about; we chanced to meet with a large party of mission Caffres, and their wives, carrying corn over to the station, for sale; and one of the women readily consented to deliver the note. Scarcely had she done so, when her husband came up and demanded sixpence for the trouble; and flung the note on the ground, on our refusal. Luckily the writer had told me its purport; and I determined to see whether, or not, the fellow would pick it up again, if I left it there: as I intended calling at the station on our return journey from Maritzburg. I might add, it afterwards turned out that the note reached its destination safely.

The only clue that I can obtain to this covetous propensity: which, unhappily, seems to lay hold of all natives on their embracing Christianity; is the ill-judged example, set by nearly all the missionaries, of demanding payment for the very least temporal service rendered to the natives. If a tooth is drawn, or a wound dressed, or a dose of medicine is administered, they say the Caffres *must pay for it*, or they will not rightly value it; the Caffre learns to argue in the same way, and thinks himself justified in demanding sixpence for the most trifling service rendered to the missionary, or to whitemen in general.

Making our way back to the cart, about sundown, we found dinner ready, and the cattle well rested; but the driver, Monyaease, was in a state of great excitement: he having accidentally discovered that the infuriated Caffre, of the morning's interview, had dogged our steps all day, more than fifteen miles, and was then lying concealed, with his spears and shield, in the tall rushes of a neighbouring swamp. An announcement that by no means added to the

enjoyment of our meal; for although I had little fear of an attack on the march: yet I apprehended a robbery from our cart, or driving box, during the night; with possibly a spear thrust, in the event of being aroused by the depredator—a gigantic ill-favoured fellow, by-the-bye.

Trusting to the protection of Providence, I yet thought it right to take what precautions lay in my reach; and being devoid of weapons, beyond my spade, and a hatchet, (the former of which the Caffre driver asked to wield,) I procured a strong stake, and sharpened it finely, with which and my hatchet I hoped to be a match for the huge monster in the event of an encounter. Also we packed up every little article, likely to attract the Caffre's eye, into two or three parcels; and just before dusk resumed our usual evening journey over the massive hills that lay in our course.

After accomplishing six miles of steep ascent, in three hours; on a fine new road, forming a portion of a line to Greytown; we lost the track, in the dark, and with difficulty crossed a deep muddy brook on the upper part of the range. At this moment we all noticed the scent of an unseen wood fire, and of grilled beef, coming from a black-wooded ravine to our right; and Monyaease surmised, what I had been quietly ruminating, that our ill-favoured companion was cooking his supper: expecting us to outspan by the water.

In that, however, he was disappointed; for, not at all relishing the damp gloomy locality of the stream, we determined to push forward a few miles; and outspan, if possible, where an attack could only be made in one direction, and at a disadvantage.

Such a situation unexpectedly presented itself, after another hour's travelling. For, owing to the darkness, we

were steering mainly by the direction of the stars; when all at once we found our course arrested by a deep ravine before, with a lofty precipice to our left, and a slope to the right, too steep for the cattle to descend. Here I felt sure we should be tolerably secure, except from the direction we had come; which again would be blocked up by the cart, and cattle, so that no approach to our tent could be effected without our being warned.

Scarcely had we kindled a fire, however, before the valley below rang with the barking of Caffre dogs; and directly afterwards several friendly natives exhibited lights: shouting to ask our object in kindling the fire. Hereupon, leaving Mrs. M. in charge of Monyaease, I took my hatchet and scrambled down the difficult incline for two or three hundred yards: where I found a craal, of six or eight huts, tenanted by very hospitable people: who immediately agreed to let a new hut for the night; and freely offered the best provisions they possessed.

Thinking the hut would be more secure, and much more comfortable than our tent, (as big drops of rain were already tumbling from on high, with the prospect of a tempest;) I, by the aid of a lad, ascended a zig-zag path, and brought Mrs. M. and the Caffre, with our baggage, down to the hut: where, on it being known that I was a missionary, all the people from the huts round gathered, while our driver prepared supper; and, for more than hour, we held one of the most interesting mission meetings that we had during the journey; and I might almost say during our stay in South Africa.

Rising with the sun, and rewarding the Caffres for their civility, we inspanned and resumed our journey without

stopping for breakfast; crossing a rivulet in a beautiful wooded glen, surrounded on all sides with deserted maize gardens, by a path kindly pointed out by the Caffres at the craals.

Judging from the course taken, and the distance travelled, we ought to have been within an easy day's journey of Maritzburg at this point. Indeed the Table-Mountain, or "Scope" as the Caffres call it, appeared in the distance; but quite in a contrary direction to that indicated by the native path. To account for this Monyaease disowned the Table-Mountain: though, as it afterwards turned out, he was wrong. Nevertheless, from the usual sagacity of the natives, in such matters, we thought it best to follow his advice, and pursue the foot track; though it led up another endless incline, mile after mile; from the upper part of which the Indian Ocean became distinctly visible; quite over the lofty hills traversed the previous day; though we were distant at least forty miles from the coast.

I omitted to state that a severe storm of rain overtook us, just as we were thinking about breakfast, and, in our anxiety to gain the shelter of a huge sycamore, of the gutta-percha species, we drove rather too recklessly: smashing one of the wheels. However, under the circumstances, we made the cattle drag on with only one wheel till we gained the wide-spread refuge; where, screened from the howling blast, we managed to erect a tent, and kindle a fire, with every prospect of a day's detention in the dreary wilderness.

The largest chamelion I ever saw rushed from amongst the rotting leaves, at the base of the tree, as soon as our fire began to throw out any heat. Without exaggeration, I

think it was a foot long ; and we had abundant opportunity of observing it, as it fixed its quarters in the boughs overhead, where it remained scampering about, till we took our departure.

The injury to the wheel proved more serious than any that had yet befallen it : the centre-piece being quite broken through. Had it been made according to English fashion of course any way-side repairs would have been almost hopeless : as it was, the Caffre sought out a log of hard wood ; and by dint of chiseling, and chopping, we managed to rectify the disaster, a little after mid-day.—By that time the rain had nearly ceased, and the brightening sky above gave promise of more settled weather.

Travelling slowly up the steep incline, over a tract of country recently burned of its yearly crop of grass, we could but notice the countless and beautiful bulbous rooted flowers, that had risen in a day or two from amongst the dense coat of ashes, which blackened the face of the country for miles and miles : flowers drawn into being by the heavy night dews, and the genial sunbeams following.

A wall of stupendous rock work, succeeded by a chain of deep precipices, similar to those of the previous day, but on a larger scale, here blocked up the narrow foot path. This range of mountains is one of the highest in Natal ; and is called “The Great Nodesberg.” We soon discovered a pass, leading down a stony gorge into the deep vale beyond. From this point the country appeared to be one unbroken sheet of black ashes : having recently been burned off : without a trace of man’s abode, or any sign of life, animal or vegetable. Scarcely, however, had we descended the difficult defile, and crossed a little marsh at its base, when a splendid

buck launched forth from a kloof, and bounded across before the oxen, in search of herbage beside some brook in the far distance.

That night we had to travel till ten o'clock before meeting with fodder for the cattle; and, even then, the patch we found barely sufficed for the poor brute's supper: however their tiredness, and the scant fare, such as it was, kept them from rambling till morning broke; when we discovered ourselves on the crest of the Little Nodesberg Mountain range, with several English homesteads down in the low country, ten or twelve miles to our right. I should observe that the night was so clear, and dry, that we spent it in the open air, beside a tiny watch-fire.

From the numerous natives, with whom we had conversed during the two previous days, we had been led to expect several English farms in this locality; but the great difficulty seemed to be, how to descend the mountain side, to get near any of them. Travelling on and on, in the vain hope of meeting with a gorge, we at last came to a dead stand beside a spring, at the extremity of the range; and out-spanned, for breakfast, on one of those lofty headlands from which the Zulus, in their wars with the Dutch, used to watch for the curling smoke in the far plains below, as an indication of the resting place of some hapless foraging party; on whom they might make a descent.

While at breakfast we were visited by natives; from whose description it appeared we must have passed the downward path, during the night. However, we had sufficient faith in the training of our oxen to attempt the descent without retracing many steps: in which we

thoroughly succeeded, though on reaching the plain two most serious disasters almost immediately befel us. The first being a sudden immersion of oxen and cart in a bog; the surface of which had been firmly crusted over by the sun's rays. Into this the cattle sank up to their backs; and were only rescued, one by one, after cutting away their harness, and strewing rushes in order to form a footing. The second disaster occurred within a mile, on the bank of a rivulet beside which we were leisurely travelling. At the moment, we happened to be loitering a little behind—conversing with a large group of young natives; and, while so engaged, our careless driver managed to capsize the cart, and its contents, down into the stream below; destroying the pole, and so severely deranging the right wheel that it only held together for two or three miles.

As darkness was fast setting in, we packed up all that was valuable, and set off on foot for the nearest farm; where we found a most hospitable reception; and passed a comfortable night. To our surprise we also learned that we were still thirty miles from Maritzburg! These good people valued the visit of a missionary so much that they not only invited us to stay some days; but loaded us with necessaries for the rest of the journey.

During the next day's march we came upon a Dutch boer, of the poorer grade, who had returned from exile, and was just settling on a fine three-thousand acre grant. His abode consisted merely of a circular mud hovel, thatched and whitewashed, with a smaller hut for his Caffre labourers, and a fine large shed for his waggon. We almost offended the good man, by insisting on paying for some refreshment

he set before us ; but as I had a message of importance to leave with him, and his family, I thought it best to be scrupulous in such matters.

I could not help being struck with the difference of our Caffre's demeanour to this farmer, and his treatment of us during the entire journey. I ought to observe that the Caffre driver had objected to this trip from the first ; though aware of our rambles at the time of engaging himself ; and, during the few days previously, had scarcely given a civil answer : though we had treated him with great indulgence, and allowed him to procure a quantity of a peculiar fibre, found only on the coast ; but saleable at a high price amongst the Amaswazi, whither he intended carrying it. However, to our surprise, his frowns all vanished before the Dutchman's bronzed face, and instead of muttering a surly Yes ! or No ! he bestowed an incessant " Inkôse " (My Lord) on the broad-brimmed shoeless Hollander.

From this point the journey lost much of its interest : as we were now in a region occupied more or less by Europeans ; and scarcely tenanted by natives. The beauty of the scenery, however, was unsurpassed by any part of the colony. It being a succession of long sweeping hills, clothed with fine rich herbage, and sufficiently wooded to give effect to the landscape : with the great Umgeni River creeping along, brim full, ten or twelve miles distant, amidst fertile hills and vales.

On the fifth day, from our quitting the Umhlali, we crossed the Umgeni, at Baynes' drift ; from which point there is an excellent waggon road to town. At intervals, along this line of road, lie farms, some of them in an

advanced state of colonial husbandry. About ten o'clock at night, with weary limbs, and jaded oxen, we once more set foot within the City of Maritzburg; and quickly found our way to the Verandah Cottage after just three weeks absence; during which we had travelled, chiefly on foot, considerably more than two hundred miles.

CHAPTER XI.

RETURN TO UMHLALI—MORE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE DRIVER—CAFFRE
DUPLICITY, AND DESERTION—CONTINUANCE OF THE JOURNEY—
SKETCH OF A BACHELOR EMIGRANT'S HUT—INCIDENTS OF THE
WAY—A CHEERLESS NIGHT ON THE NODSBERG MOUNTAINS—
INTERVIEW WITH A ROAMING NATIVE—DISASTROUS TERMINATION
OF THE DAY'S WORK—A WEATHER-BOUND SUNDAY UNDER CANVAS
—UNEXPECTED AND TIMELY AID—COMPLETION OF THE JOURNEY.

So much time having been occupied on the journey ; and as we had distinctly engaged to hold two services in the coast district, on the second Sunday from the time of leaving ; it became necessary to dispose of the materials of our cottage to the first bidder ; who, however, gave nearly half prime cost : which was not amiss, considering that we had had a year's use of the house, and that the original workmanship cost nothing. We likewise found tenants for our garden, and field ; and, after taking farewell of a few friends, were on the point of setting out finally for the coast, when a serious difficulty arose with Matrose ; whose duty it was to drive the oxen on the return journey.

His brother, Monyaease, it appears, gave such alarming reports of the Coast Caffres ; (to account for his own aversion to quitting Maritzburg) that, just at the last moment—when everything was packed in the cart, and Mrs. M. had already set out in advance, to wait for me at the residence of a friend, this new driver, Matrose, flew in a passion, and refused to

accompany us on the journey; demanding payment for the unexpired period of his term of service, and to finish it in idleness, unless I chose to furnish him with work in the capital.

As soon as he cooled down, a little, I suggested that we should drive round by the magistrate's office, only a few yards out of our course, and ask that official's opinion on this most unreasonable demand; by which means I might have the man registered, for half-a-crown; as a slight guarantee for his good conduct during the journey. Though, I ought to add, the registration is generally a mere farce; as no attempt is ever made to capture a run-away servant, unless guilty of actual murder or robbery. However, the man thought better of his conduct; and, after going some distance with an air of injured dignity, turned and said he would be good, and go with us to the coast, if I would forbear taking him before the magistrate, as it would injure his character afterwards.

Not without some misgivings I assented to his request; but, as the man professed sorrow for his conduct, and had conducted himself tolerably well previously, I thought myself bound to give him a trial: hoping to ensure his good behaviour by leaving an additional half-crown with the friend, where Mrs. M. was waiting; which the Caffre was to receive on his return to the capital; provided he brought back a note of approval, at the expiration of the journey.

Thus secured—I, Mrs. M., and Matrose quitted Maritzburg, on the afternoon of the fifth day before my proposed Sunday services at the Umhlali, and Tongaati; steering our course over the wild open country, recently traversed, with the hope of shortening the route in one or two parts. Be-

sides that the prospect of obtaining fodder, in that direction, was much greater than along the Durban road.

Having completed the first five miles, most satisfactorily, we encamped, for a four o'clock dinner, on the high range of grassy hills lying east of Maritzburg; and were just congratulating ourselves on the driver's improved demeanour; (as he was a very fine strong man, and a valuable servant while in a good humour,) when up he came with a dismally long face, to announce that he had forgotten to pack up the cooking utensils, in the confusion of starting.

To attempt a journey of a hundred miles, through a desolate region, without the means of cooking provisions, would have been worse than folly. Yet if we dispatched the Caffre, *alone*, to fetch the missing articles, the probability was against ever seeing him or them again: as the cooking apparatus would be about the last thing likely to escape a Caffre's attention, unless designedly. Nor could I go and leave the load at his mercy. Fortunately Mrs. M. was not afraid to be left in charge of the cart and oxen: enabling me to accompany the crafty Caffre back to town, as fast as our feet would carry us.

Arriving at the cottage, then about to be pulled in pieces, we discovered what we were in search of, and immediately started back. Far away, on the distant hill-top, I could barely discern the little white speck which I knew was our vehicle: though Matrose, with his eagle eye, could see both Mrs. M., and the oxen. And so completely did he disarm all suspicion by his apparent anxiety about "Missees;" as he trotted along, with slouching gait; that I gladly attributed the neglect of the morning to accident rather than design.

Reaching the halting ground, after an hour and a half's

run, we dined and inspanned directly for a starlight stage of a few miles: all three of us singing Caffre hymns as we slowly wended our way, with the heavily-laden cart, over the lonely and bleak hill sides. About nine, p.m., we passed a new farm; near which we proposed encamping for the night. But the dogs were so alarmed at our approach that the farmer turned out, to see what was the matter, and immediately gave us a lodging in a newly built room: the door of which, unfortunately, opened into another room; as we shall have occasion to notice presently.

After a cup of coffee, and a brief conversation with the family, we all retired to rest: Matrose having taken his supper into the Caffre's kitchen, to share it with them, and share theirs in turn; preparatory, we supposed, to passing the night with the other native men belonging to the farm. It so happened that I was unusually weary that night; having been up the entire night previously, writing, and packing, and getting ready for the journey; so that, even had I suspected the Caffre, it would have been impossible to have kept watch at the cart. As it was, he quite allayed all fears; when, about midnight, the dogs broke out in a furious manner, over in the direction of the cart, and its baggage. Of course I jumped up, but found the room-door secured outside. Next I tried the windows, but they too were protected with iron-work. And so I had to lie down, and let the fellow get off with whatever he might think proper to lay hands on: though it is only due to his honesty to say that he took nothing, so far as we discovered.*

* He had received more than his month's earnings, in prize money, and an advance of wages.

I cannot say that I altogether regretted the loss of such an untractable travelling companion ; though the difficulty of accomplishing the remaining ninety miles, without a driver, or servant of any sort, made our day-break stage anything but cheerful. And when, after a mile or two, we came to the Umgeni ; and had to cross the gurgling torrent, (cold almost as ice,) as best we could ; we were half inclined to give up in despair, and return to Maritzburg. Alas ! had we done so, no longer was our little cottage ready to receive us.

In crossing this stream, we managed to crush one wheel against a sunken rock ; which, though it held together for a mile or so, eventually gave way, and compelled us to halt during the greater portion of the day, to effect repairs.

While thus engaged Mrs. M. gathered a bundle of dry wood from the scattered mimosa trees around, and was preparing breakfast ; when a poor little jaded Caffre boy, of about fourteen, came shivering up to the fire ; and, unasked, assisted in boiling the kettle. The lad, who I rather suspect had also made a midnight flight from the city, pretended to be searching for lost cattle ; reported to be roaming about fifteen miles further on ; at a farm where we purposed outspanning for the night. He, therefore, readily agreed to feed and travel with us, as far as the said farm ; and though of course, under the circumstances, we could not offer to secure his services beyond that point ; yet we found his assistance, even so far, a very great relief ; as the road was all up hill, and the load full heavy enough for the oxen ; especially without a "forelooper" to lead them by a thong.

Night overtook us ere we reached the lone farm : where we expected to find a young English bachelor, who had given us a pressing invitation to pay him a visit, on the first

opportunity. And when, at length, we drew up before the door of his solitary abode, and found it tenantless, were not a little disappointed to hear from a gaunt Caffre; (who emerged from a hut close by, muffled up in a rug and only half aroused from sleep :) that the Englishman was away in the capital, and had the key of his hut. We therefore pitched our tent, and prepared supper; while doing which the lonely hills suddenly re-echoed the quick sharp crack-crack of a waggoner's whip; almost as loud as the report of a rifle; and in a very few minutes up came the honest Briton, with his waggon, and team of fourteen, and quickly introduced us to the interior of his hut.

We now learned that he was on the point of outspanning for the night at the Umgeni ford; but, hearing that we were in advance, had re-yoked his oxen, and driven on the extra fifteen miles, in order to give us a welcome. An act of kindness on the part of a comparative stranger, (who knew me only from a five minutes' previous conversation; and, by report, as a self-supporting missionary,) which shows that the hard working laity are ready, and willing, to lend a kindly hand to any pastor who will go amongst them as a friend, and counsellor, rather than as a stiff and dogmatical expounder of truths he seldom attempts to practise.

The hut consisted of one large circular room; built of clay, and covered with a conical pole and thatch roof. On striking a light, the sight that presented itself was quite in character with the simple but hearty disposition of its proprietor. A bedstead, a table, two or three stools, a book-shelf, and strong deal chest, comprised the whole of the furniture. At the door stood the double barrelled gun, just brought

in. At the bed's head was a long pole, armed with a soldier's bayonet. From the roof hung joints of dried venison, salted bacon, and jerked beef. On the walls were pasted sundry illustrations from English papers. And, on his pillow, lay a large old-fashioned bible, turned down, just as the reader had left it before starting on his journey the previous day.

After a very interesting account of the poor fellow's doings and prospects ; (in listening to which a pastor never need lack an opportunity of putting in a word in due season,) we read a chapter, and retired to our tent. Refusing the hut ; which the good man proposed allotting to our use, by spending his night in the waggon. However, as the clouds threatened rain, we accepted the loan of a large sail cloth, which thoroughly enveloped our tent, cart, and baggage all at once.

The early part of the next day's journey lay over a fine even country : so that we got along comfortably, notwithstanding our lack of a native driver. However, the numerous Caffres, that fell in with us from time to time, somewhat delayed our progress, by stopping to converse for a few minutes : opportunities too precious to be neglected.

About noon we came upon a more difficult locality ; where the rich grassy plain was intersected, every half mile or so, by narrow, muddy, brooks ; which, though abounding in rushes and lilies, yet contained but a tiny running stream of drinkable water. These awkward ditches were rather too wide too leap, and too soft to wade through. At the first the oxen took a running jump ; but only to imbed the cart, and its contents, in the black mire. After that we out-spanned, and unloaded, at each brook ; dug the bank down

with a spade, so as to form a footing for the cattle; dragged the empty cart over by hand; and passing the load over, little by little, in the same way, yoked the cattle once more, and journeyed on to another, and another.—A slow and wearisome process; but quite unavoidable in the absence of a Caffre leader.

Approaching an European homestead, about sunset, I went to the cart for my coat: which I had been glad to dispense with during the heat and toil of the day; but, to my chagrin, found that it had made its escape from the cart. And, (remembering how a purse of gold had been dropped during our last trip; which, on retracing my steps, I only recovered at the critical moment, just as a party of Caffres were approaching it.) I concluded that no time was to be lost, if I hoped to enjoy again the lost garment: which, by-the-bye, was doubly valuable, as being the only one I had with me on the journey; and without which it would have been ludicrous to make my first appearance in the new parish. Happily I traced the wheel prints over the turf, and recovered my coat after a half-hour's ramble.

The night being stormy, and as the poor settler was far more *willing* than *able* to give, we declined the repeated offer of his hospitality; but accepted the use of his travelling waggon, in preference to our own tent; and were much pleased to find that some hints thrown out, on our previous journey, on the subject of family worship, had not been forgotten, nor neglected.

During the night our oxen broke loose and strayed. And, for the first time, I began to despond, as I roamed over hill and dale, hour after hour, in search of the wanderers. At length I crossed their well known "spoor," or

foot prints ; and tracing them in the soil, already softened by the night's rain, succeeded in bringing them back to the farm, a little before noontide.

Resuming the journey, we made a passing call at the farm of a thriving Englishman : who, with his mother, pressed an invitation to spend the night ; but, fearing it might make us too late for the intended Sunday's duty, we declined the kind offer ; and proceeded on our way, with a present of a pound cake, and other good things, for use on the road.

This part of the colony is infested with porcupines ; which often prove troublesome in the settler's garden, especially to his potatoe crop. They are captured in the most simple manner imaginable : by digging a small circular hole, about two feet deep, with perpendicular sides. In one of these pits we found large quantities of splendid quills, lying rotting : just as the former owners fell in, and afterwards had been shot or speared. I might observe that the porcupine, relying on the strength and keenness of its quills, is in the habit of taking possession of the holes burrowed out by jackals. And, like the man of letters who appropriates that on which others have bestowed the labour ; discovers, too late, that his fate is involved in his favourite propensity.

Nine miles further on we found ourselves at a standstill, within a hundred yards of the brow of the Lesser Nodesberg range of hills. Ledge after ledge of rock here formed a sort of natural staircase, far too abrupt for the cattle to proceed with their heavy load. In fact they had settled the point, most unceremoniously, by knocking Mrs. M. down with their horns, while helping me to get them forward ; and by a sudden jerk had disengaged themselves from the vehicle.

Leaving them to graze and recruit strength; we dined at a table of granite, and surveyed from our lofty position the lovely tract of country traversed during the two previous days—scattered over with lone homesteads, six or eight miles asunder; with occasional groups of Caffre huts, and feeding kine. The steep slope on which we rested might have passed for a garden of wild flowers, strewn amongst huge blocks of granite; over which, again, the tall flowering grass raised its head on high, as if to welcome the refreshing coolness of the usual evening breeze.

Having marked out the most practicable path for the cart, I managed to roll away some of the worst blocks of stone with a lever, and filled up sundry gaps with my spade: till I made the way sufficiently passable to drag the empty vehicle up from ledge to ledge: though, I ought to add, we occasionally had to employ our bundles of baggage and bedding in forming temporary slopes for the wheels.

Once safely landed on the ridge of the lower range, with the cattle thoroughly refreshed, we made good progress for two or three miles: till we neared the Great Nodesberg, which crosses the lower range most unceremoniously, like a huge wall of stone. Here one could easily read on the granite blocks, printed without letters, “No Thoroughfare!” Though, like most worldly difficulties, the Great Nodesberg is surmountable by a little perseverance, and a careful examination of the foot-prints of previous travellers.

The sun was half buried in the western horizon when we halted on the verge of a rushy brook, formed by a stream from the heights above: from which we procured a kettle of pure water; intending to carry it forward, till we reached a forest beyond the crest of the mountain: where we hoped to

pitch our tent for the night, if possible. In crossing this brook the cart once more became imbedded; and was with difficulty extricated, after much lost time. And, unluckily, as we discovered afterwards, my sextant, and various little articles, jolted out of the cart, while the cattle were floundering about; and escaped our notice in the dusk. I have since ascertained that the sextant fell into the hands of a party of Caffres; who, after stripping it of the mirrors, brass screws, &c., offered it for sale to an English trader, for half-a-crown. The good man, guessing to whom it belonged, kindly paid the finder, in order to restore it to me: though, of course, after some month's sojourn with the Caffres, it will be more valuable as a curiosity than as a mathematical instrument.

Alas, when about half-a-mile up the craggy slope, beyond this brook, our oxen were seized with a panic, and lost all power; except to floor us with their horns whenever we approached them; and not without good cause as it afterwards turned out! To make the matter worse an African tempest commenced, with pelting gusts from the heights above, rendering the existence of a tent almost impossible on the exposed mountain side.

Loosing the cattle, our first idea was to take refuge from the storm under the cart; by throwing the tent covering loosely over the whole. But happening to discover a large hole, burrowed by jackals, in the steep slope; I took my spade, and dug it out so as to make a tolerable cavern, about seven feet by five: round the upper part of which I cut a hasty gutter, to carry off the water from the hill above; and then making a wall of the baggage from the cart, we pegged the tent covering over the open part above; and so extem-

porised a much more commodious refuge than the cart afforded.

At first we gave up all hopes of a fire, or of any supper, having no Caffre to help in procuring fuel; but as the cold increased I determined to take my rifle and hatchet, and go foraging. First lighting up the tent, with a couple of candles, lest I should fail to find my way back in the rain and darkness. Success rewarded my search; and after an hour's work in a dark kloof, I managed to get back with as much wood and furze as I could carry, and drag along. Which, though too wet to burn alone, blazed away famously when once we had kindled a fire with a newspaper, and the backboard of the cart which we were forced to split up for the occasion.

The rolling thunder, borne on the howling wind, with the pattering shower over-head, made even that poor resting-place a boon. I need scarcely add, we should have liked it quite as well if we had not made a startling discovery, just as it was completed: viz., that there was a large snake's bore in the earth at the upper end: which, by-the-bye, we plugged up securely with a glass wine bottle.

As the night advanced, we were somewhat surprised to find the two oxen hanging about the cart, and our fire; but had no idea of lions: though, as we ascertained a day or two afterwards, a pair were at that time taking refuge on that very mountain; and had been committing depredations amongst the nearest herds, and farms, sixteen miles distant. Probably our crackling watch-fire, and the two candles, helped to frighten them off; if at hand that night. Unfortunately, we kept up rather too much of a blaze, and managed to set fire to a portion of our tent, about two o'clock in the

morning. Had it not been drenched nothing could have saved it from total destruction.

When morning broke it found us almost benumbed with cold, and dampness: notwithstanding that we always carried a large square of untanned hide, and two long-woolled sheepskins, to lay on the floor of our tent. The weather, too, was most unpropitious: there being an incessant drizzling rain, accompanied with sleet; which, with the dense masses of mist hanging on the projecting peaks, gave a very dreary appearance to the naturally wild mountain scenery; and made us unanimous in endeavouring to surmount the short but rugged barrier, beyond which the country descended gradually, and rapidly, to a more genial region.

One of the very rare instances of Caffre gratitude occurred at the worst part of the gorge, up which we soon after endeavoured to urge the cattle with their load. I should state that the footing was extremely bad; consisting of large loose stones, or pebbles, from the size of a bullock's head, to that of a mile-stone: over which it was impossible to proceed more than two or three yards at a time, without resting the oxen. But, just as we were deploring our want of an extra hand, up came a native passenger: who recognised us from having attended our meetings in Maritzburg. Instantly he flung his bundle down, and threw his whole energy into our cause: relieving Mrs. M. of the rein, and me of the whip: so that I was enabled to lift, and push the hinder part of the cart: to the great assistance of the jaded cattle.

In vain we endeavoured to secure the services of this Caffre for the rest of the journey: offering him ten shillings for what, with his assistance, would not have exceeded a day and a half's travelling. Nevertheless, he voluntarily accom-

panied us a quarter of a mile, over the mountain top, till we reached a deep rut, or Caffre track, worn by the shoeless feet of former generations, when this part of the country was densely peopled with Caffre tribes.

The cold here became so penetrating, and the vapour so dense, that it was impossible to use our fingers, or to see a-head the length of the oxen; and I had serious fears for Mrs. M., as it was now nearly mid-day, and we had had no breakfast; and, even in the event of pitching our tent, there was no possibility of kindling a fire; since it would have been madness to leave the cart in search of fuel, even a chain's length, in consequence of the dense fog.

After descending the hill-side nine or ten miles; we suddenly emerged from the mist, and found ourselves on parched ground, with a clear sky and brilliant sun over-head. This part of the colony, being part of the Crown Reserve, is tolerably well peopled with refugees. Here we quickly lighted a fire; and, swinging our kettles, enjoyed a good rest while the meal was preparing: resuming the journey about three p.m., in company with occasional Caffres, passing backwards and forwards; who always seemed inclined to enter into conversation, after a friendly salutation of "Sacka-boni"—(Good day!)

At sunset, that evening, we were within twenty-five miles of the Umhlali parsonage; and not more than four or five from the Isidumbeni American Mission Station. Once more I entertained good hopes of reaching our destination, in time for the appointed service next day. Or, at all events, of getting within sufficient range so as to leave the cart at some farm, and walk to the church with Mrs. M.

Disappointment was however again in store for us: for a

storm rose as the sun set; and while ascending a long tedious slope, the oxen slipped on the greasy loam; and snapped the connecting link that attached them to the cart: which being suddenly disengaged started off with irresistible force; and never stopped till it tumbled down a sandy kloof, at the foot of the hill; on the verge of a wood-clad rivulet.

All possibility of accomplishing our object being now over; we endeavoured to make ourselves as comfortable as circumstances would permit: the little wooded glen affording a sheltered retreat for our frail tent; which we speedily set up, beneath the dense evergreen branches of a huge timber tree. The brook close by, and the dead wood from a neighbouring thicket, furnished the two needful elements of water and fuel. Unfortunately the supply of provisions was not so easily replenished: there being very little left, save a bag of Indian meal, a little sugar, and a tin of coffee: unless indeed we began eating a few pet fowls, Mrs. M. was taking down to the Umhlali.

Sunday morning brought no abatement in the rain, and I began to fear we were to have forty-eight hours' deluge: a thing which I have observed comes regularly, at Natal, every year, just about the middle of the dry season. During an early ramble, in search of our cattle, I met with several native craals, and took the opportunity of warming myself at their fires, while holding a brief conversation. From one hut I procured a quart of beautiful new milk: which a little troop of Caffre children carried with me to the secluded spot where Mrs. M. and the tent lay—distinguishable, afar off, by the thin wreath of smoke issuing from the dense jungle.

Our little black friends spent a long morning with us;

who, after finishing up the remains of a dish of Indian meal porridge, returned to their kraals, to relate what had been told them : and with such good effect that before night we had quite an inundation of visitors, notwithstanding the rain ; many of whom appeared to take great interest in the Caffre hymns, and the elementary doctrines of the Gospel.

As the shades of night gathered round, our appetites prevailed over our regard for the pet fowls in the cart ; and one had to relinquish its existence for our evening meal. Soon after, a noble deer, with a dozen dogs at its heels, and as many Caffre huntsmen, dashed through the glen, and nearly capsized our tent. Even had it not been Sunday, a shot would have been impossible, owing to the dogs and Caffres : as it was, the game and its pursuers were soon lost sight of, on the distant hills.

The timely warning of our visitors induced us to keep up an extra sized camp-fire, for fear of leopards. This we gladly transferred to the tent door, for warmth's sake : keeping watch in turns, during the long night, to guard against another conflagration. Desolate as such a situation might appear, I remember well how the evening church service seemed to dispel all anxiety as to the morrow's prospects.

About four o'clock on Monday morning the rain ceased ; and the stars peeped out for an hour or two, till the golden east robbed them of their silvery splendour. By mid-day the ground was sufficiently dried to resume the journey. And, what was very remarkable, at the moment of starting up came a young English trader, who had been detained in his lonely waggon, just over the hill, from the same cause as

ourselves. With kindness we ever shall remember, this friend in need outspanned at once ; and, with an experienced driver, materially assisted our cart and oxen up the terrible hill yet lying before us—upwards of a mile in length.

The night following we reached the American mission station ; from which point the country became more hospitable ; farms lying about at intervals of a mile or two. Indeed my new parish there commenced ; and at the first homestead we experienced kindness ; at the second hospitality, a present of eggs, and the offer of a native servant for the rest of the journey. The next family would hear of no refusal ; and made us tarry with them, in their comfortable and happy home, till thoroughly recovered from the weariness of the journey. And so, at length, we concluded our difficult undertaking ; reaching the Umhlali parsonage on the tenth night after quitting Maritzburg.

Of course, in a journey like the one just described, we were unable to pursue true mission work, so well as when on a tour expressly for that purpose : yet I trust it might not be altogether unprofitable : taking into consideration the number of different individuals and families met with, in one way or another — either trading on their own account ; going in search of work ; driving cattle from tribe to tribe ; or carrying corn for sale. To say nothing of the numerous huts contiguous to the line of march : with most of whom we endeavoured to leave a definite message, in such form as opportunity offered. The Resurrection, future Judgment, and Man's Redemption being the basis of each conversation.

CHAPTER XII.

THE UMHALI AND ITS NATIVE PEOPLE—SUNDAYS IN SOUTH AFRICA—
STAR-LIGHT MISSION WORK—HINTS TO MISSIONARIES—LIMITS OF
AN AFRICAN PARISH—CART RAMBLES IN THE BUSH LANDS—
PREACHING THE RESURRECTION—VISIT TO A ROBBER CRAAL—
GUARDIAN SNAKES—ENCOURAGEMENT TO MISSIONARIES—PROS-
PECTS OF THE COLONIAL CHURCH.

OUR first care, after arriving at the Umhlali, was to send a Caffre round to the outlying settlers, with a notice of the following Sunday Service: a task which one of the village storekeepers kindly undertook to have performed; as we were still Caffreless.

The next thing was to enclose a small piece of ground for a kitchen-garden; for although there was an acre or two of land partially under cultivation; yet it was quite exposed to the inroads of cattle, and deer, so that there was not a vegetable on the premises; except two patches of sweet potatoes, and a few tufts of shallots. Thanks to the wonderful fertility of the colony, a few weeks sufficed to furnish an abundant supply of peas beans and the like. In the fruit way we were more fortunate; there being a great number of young mulberry trees on the premises, and a large bed of pine-apples just coming into bearing.

Meanwhile we were in great straights for lack of native servants; the only assistance obtainable being that of a poor little orphan native, kindly lent by a neighbour to light the

fire, and wash dishes. For, I ought to observe, during our first visit to the Umhlali, we had such a specimen of the impudence, and dishonesty, of a number of fellows from the neighbouring craals, who formerly worked at the parsonage; that we decided on employing none but strangers, whom we could train to conform to our own rules and habits. In fact, I was obliged to forbid the premises to several, whom I detected in the act of appropriating various articles. One fellow even went so far as to bring a spade, and commence digging up the flowering shrubs before the windows, and that in broad daylight.

Another grievance shortly arose with the same families; for, to our astonishment, on the third Sunday, they demanded threepence a head, all round, for attending the short Native Meeting we always held previous to the morning European service: asserting that "Mackennis" (Archdeacon Mackenzie) always paid them threepence for three attendances; or at that rate, until they earned their print dresses. A proceeding we were neither willing, nor able, to carry out: being quite dependant on our private income. Besides, as I observed to the clamorous people, the benefit of attending a place of worship on such conditions, and with such motives, wears out, and ceases, directly the garments become ragged and spoiled: whereas the worship of God, in a proper frame of mind, gives warmth to the inward man, now in this life, with the assurance of an incorruptible robe in the life to come. Alas, not one that I met with in that locality had ever heard of another world!

Nor did we get on much better, for some time, with the numerous strings of natives who visited the parsonage every day, with fowls, wood, corn, and the like. Our rule was

never to purchase an article, on any terms, for which a Caffre demanded an unreasonable price at first; but merely recommended him to sell his goods elsewhere. By which means, and a little firmness, with gratuitous assistance when any brought wounds to be doctored, we at length gained a much more satisfactory footing amongst the people; and ultimately had a hearty welcome at all the craals in the neighbourhood.

For nearly a month we thus remained without a Caffre: till, at length, we obtained a refugee orphan boy of fifteen: named Uncomaas, after the river so called. Within a week, at least a score of respectable natives applied for work; from amongst whom we selected one: not thinking it worth while to spend much in labour, as we had only six months to remain in the colony. This latter servant delighted in the most uncooth name of "Scag-garnia"; but was a very intelligent fellow of about sixteen. He and Uncomaas acquired the Lord's Prayer, and Creed, in a very brief time; and so enabled us to resume a class for singing, prayer, and reading Scripture, every night, after dusk: in which we were joined by working natives from the arrowroot growers' craals, all round. While the early-morning meeting for a short hymn, and prayer, was generally attended by casual visitors, and hawkers from the neighbouring Caffre craals, alluded to just now as being so excessively troublesome.

Sunday morning always was a busy time with us. First there was the brief Caffre service, at our own abode; at half past ten the Full Morning Duty with the Umhlali parishioners, about a mile from us; every other Sunday a full afternoon service at the Tongaati, distant ten further in the same direction: the alternate Sunday afternoon being devoted

to mission work at some of the larger Caffre kraals within a radius of four or five miles.

The gathering together of a White Congregation, at a colonial outlying church, is a most interesting spectacle. Scattered far and wide—strangers to the world, and often cut off from their next door neighbours by a mile or two of jungle, or by rivers, or at best by trackless plains of long-rank grass, it is esteemed a delightful privilege to assemble, once a week, with their families, on the Lord's Sabbath, within the walls of a place of worship, be it ever so humble.

That at the Umhlali, as I before observed, had once been the mess room of a military outpost. Beneath the remains of its dilapidated verandah, the earliest arrivals took their stand, in friendly knots, to talk about family affairs, and watch the progress of the different groups wending their way over the hills, and dales, towards the common centre of assembly. And many a hearty welcome greeted each party, as they individually came up and joined their friends and neighbours.

Here would be a party of mounted gentlemen and ladies, from a distance, with a Caffre sent before to take charge of the horses during service. There, again, one or two sturdy teams, and carts, conveying the numerous Olive branches of some working planters. Now come a venerable couple, arm in arm, from yon flourishing orchard. In the opposite direction appears a portly individual with a sickly wife, and scrupulously neat family of little children. Now there is an unusual bustle and up ride a couple of very important personages—One, an old military gentleman, (not of Her Majesty's Service)—booted and spurred, and mounted on a polled pack ox. The other a son of Neptune perched upon a very tall horse.

Fortunately the church stood on a mound-like hill, commanding a thorough view all round : so that I always gave stragglers a few minutes' grace, if there was a probability of their getting up in anything like time. The absence of a clock, or other recognised standard of time, making it almost impossible to obtain punctuality. Directly I took my place at the desk, all entered the deplorable building and found seats on broken forms, tea chests, stools, or whatever they best could. And though the floor was merely of trodden earth ; and the walls of falling reeds, clayed over ; with a plain table, covered with a Caffre rug for an altar-cloth, and a couple of small stands for desk and pulpit ; yet, I am happy to say, rough as it was, it sufficed during several months to hold a very reverent and attentive congregation. Though, curiously enough, the greater portion belonged to various denominations.

This Service was generally concluded by twelve, or half-past : barely leaving time to reach the Tongaati by three ; especially when we were obliged to make the journey on foot, from lack of a Caffre leader, or from other causes : such as lost cattle, or damaged wheels. In which case Mrs. M. walked on slowly, instead of accompanying me to the morning service ; and rested half-way, under a tree, till I came up.

When our cattle, Caffres, and cart, were in good trim, we used to enjoy this drive through the flowery park-like scenery that stretches from the Umhlali township to the Tongaati. The only drawbacks being ; first the absence of a single habitation, in case of a tempest which now and then overtook us ; and secondly the scarcity of water, there being only one spring within reach of the road. For, with the heat of a noonday sun, nearly overhead, the oxen often suffered

severely from thirst : so much so that their tongues frequently hung quite out of their mouths. To cool the poor brutes, we used to pause a few minutes, in a shady place, at the spring, and throw cold water over their backs. Abundance of water might be procured, by sinking a few feet, at almost any part of the road ; as there are numerous muddy brooks at intervals ; but, owing to the amount of traffic, and the continual thickening of the water, it is quite unserviceable, at present, for man or beast.

A welcome, and substantial repast, always awaited our arrival at the Tongaati : where, in reply to the summons of a tolling bell, all the White people in the neighbourhood, and from the new township of Victoria, assembled in the resident proprietor's drawing-room, and closed the day with the full afternoon service.

These details may perhaps be tedious to some ; yet, if the reader could realize the mine of pleasure which a missionary possesses, in looking back on those Sabbath gatherings, in far-distant lands, he would almost envy the wandering minister his recollections, of homes, and brethren, and mothers, and sisters, and little ones—where God is worshipped, and good-will towards men is fostered, by the feeling that one and all are heirs of one common hope and promise, through a Saviour's merits.

Nor would the reader readily forget one of these African Sunday afternoons, if after a busy week of toil he had taken his seat amongst the Tongaati congregation. Every external influence there seemed to awaken a spirit of devotion, and dispelled all worldly cares—the soft and fragrant breeze, fresh from the ocean—the suppressed murmur of a rocky rivulet in the valley below, blended with the rustling foliage

around—the waving fields of sugar-cane, far and near, tinged by the setting sun—the sombre hues of distant wood-clad hills and grassy plains, combined with the aforesaid invigorating coolness of the declining day, all helped to kindle a flame of grateful obligation to that Great Ruler of the Universe, and Source of every Blessing, to celebrate whose praise we there were wont to meet.

As we never returned to our abode, at the Umhlali, till the following afternoon; an opportunity was afforded of making occasional visits at the cottages of the neighbouring settlers; and also of holding open-air meetings, on the Sunday evenings, when starlight favoured us, amongst the adjacent craals, occupied by the Tongaati Estate Caffres. And though I hardly dare hope that heathen, thus casually assembled, would fully comprehend the meaning of our visits: (which of course they coupled with our Sunday service with the White congregation, and regarded less in the light of a direct call to the Gospel Dispensation, than did many of the craals visited in our daily rambles, to whom we always addressed ourselves as commissioned messengers.) Yet, perhaps, an unseen spark of future light might be kindled by some of the simple hymns; or by the rough translation of a portion of the Scriptures.

While on this head; let me strongly recommend, to any young missionary, the practice of translating to heathen, in his own words, historical portions of Scripture, or one of the miracles, or of the parables, in support of each doctrine introduced. The more he attempts such an exercise, the more success will attend his labours; and the more light will flood in upon his own understanding of Divine things. Till, at length, he becomes fully persuaded as I am; that every

event recorded, concerning men of olden times, is recorded because the very same temptations, and infirmities, and difficulties, are besetting each individual being, in some peculiar form adapted to his own position in life. So that the temporal judgments visited, as history testifies, on offenders of old; or the blessings bestowed on the Godly; are, up to this hour, working silently and surely, as heretofore! Similarly with the miracles; the more a missionary uses those tokens of The Hand that can reverse the course of Nature. So much the more will he perceive that every miracle, recorded in the Gospels, conveys a touching appeal to our sympathies for the sufferer healed, or for the individuals assisted, by Our Blessed Lord. And not only so; but also exhibits a living lasting picture of the Spiritual healing we must all undergo, (one way or another,) and of the Unseen Hand whereby we are supplied with spiritual food, or rescued from the floods and storms raised by our ghostly enemies! Whereas, the parables will appear like Divine Lessons, traced out by The Hand Infallible, and wrapped in pages snatched from Nature's hand-book! Woe! to the man who hastily scans the printed wrapper, but fails to discern the message of life, or death, conveyed to himself in that marvellous epistle! Surely that man may be said to have eyes, and yet see not!—(Jer. v. 21. Luke xii. 13.)

Here let me observe that the Tongaati is the most central spot in this extensive parish. Ten miles southward lies Mount Moreland with its excellent church, which building also serves for the adjacent Town of Verulam. And several miles further still is the Umhlanga Church, in the midst of an extensive tract occupied by scattered settlers. This latter church being so far from the archdeacon's residence, he had

partially made it over to a hard-working Durban clergyman before I took charge of the parish : who kindly continued so doing during my ministry.

At Mount Moreland I held service once, by special request, to a very large congregation ; who were anxious to make arrangements for a Service every Sunday ; a thing quite impossible ; seeing I had pledged myself to hold at least one Service a-week at the Umhlali Church, distant just twenty South African miles ; besides that a resident layman had been regularly appointed to officiate in the absence of a minister : who, I understood, considered the occasional visits of clergymen as detrimental to his own influence. Northward of the Tongaati, as I formerly observed, lay the Umhlali, at a distance of from ten to twelve miles ; containing a White population of about two hundred souls ; with native squatters, on the estates of non-resident proprietors, to the number of two or three thousand. Eight miles further north, the parish embraced an extensive mission station : occupied by an excellent American missionary, named Grout ; who had done, and was still doing, much good amongst his own immediate natives. And, ten miles still further, a new district came under my care ; just peopled by several hundred German emigrants, and a few English traders ; beyond which my parish, and the colonial limits, came to a termination at the frontier river, Tugella : some thirty miles from the Umhlali parsonage.

Our little bullock cart, with its pair of oxen, now perfectly trained, was invaluable in our occasional visits to the distant settlers ; and more frequent rambles amongst the scattered Caffre craals of this extensive parish. With both of which races we strove to become personally acquainted, so soon as

the accession of Caffre servants enabled us to commence operations.

Alas, for the appearance of the once trim little vehicle! No awning remained—its sides, long since torn off, had been replaced by sturdy plank—its wheels were now a complication of rough pieces, cut from every roadside forest—paint had vanished—two pair of stout iron axles had been fairly worn through, by the sand creeping into the boxes. But, nevertheless, such as it was, it carried us up and down hills that no other conveyance in the colony could have ventured over. Through marshes, and suspicious rivers, where the Caffre attendants dashed over at double quick speed, for fear of alligators—and, not unfrequently, had to burst for itself an untrodden path through the dense jungle, in steering directly from craal to craal; till the axle came in contact with some hidden fragment of stone, or broken stump, and necessitated a lift of the cart, before further progress could be made.

Of course, in these excursions, it was always necessary to carry a loaded gun; as the country abounded with leopards; which though harmless, generally speaking, by daylight; yet would be apt to show their teeth if encountered abruptly in their natural lairs.

As to shooting, notwithstanding the abundance of deer, we only once came within reach of one: owing probably to being always in conversation with Mrs. M., or the drivers; or more frequently still, in singing all together as we journeyed along. In fact we had no need to shoot venison, as our table was pretty well supplied by the colonists, in that respect—a pigeon, an eatable parrot, and a nameless bird, were the only rewards my gun brought, during our visit to Africa.

In the fishing way we were much more fortunate: two or three days a-week we sent a boy to the beach, or drove home that way, in order to secure a supply of oysters, lobsters, mullet, or whatever the tide was kind enough to leave behind, in the rocky pools, when it receded to the mighty ocean. Indeed the coasts of South Africa teem with fish, of every variety, and it is much to be regretted that there are no fishing villages established, in the neighbourhood of the towns, and populated districts.

As time rolled on: we were much pleased to find that the doctrine of a Resurrection was making an impression on all the natives to whom we declared it; and several messages were sent from distant craals, once visited, to come out and spend a day in telling their people more of what the Bible said. Most of these coast people had acquired more or less knowledge of the externals of religion from some source; probably from the archdeacon. And this they turned to an unwarrantable purpose, as I before observed, for lack of knowing the object of all religion: viz., to prepare the soul for its future state.

Thus they would often decline doing the least work on the Sunday, even to lighting their employer's fire, or milking his cows, except by compulsion: though, strange to say, they thought it no harm to form hunting parties, or get intoxicated over their beer and war-dances, on that Day of Rest. The surest remedy for which appeared to me to inculcate truths by which the future state might enter more into their ideas of Christianity, and religion.

On one occasion, I remember closing a Sunday afternoon's mission tour with a visit to a large craal of some fourteen or fifteen married men, polygamists of course, who were the

most noted thieves in the neighbourhood. I and Mrs. M. were seated, the men were all squatting round in a ring, their wives and children stood by listening: when a burst of laughter followed my announcement that dead men would ever come to life again! However, as I proceeded to trace the Unseen Hand which first called them into being, and brought them from helpless childhood to the full strength of manhood; and then began to take them back to a second state of weakness; till, bowed down upon a staff, they at length should lie down and die, as all their forefathers did. And, as I next went through the process of burying, in the dust of the floor, a piece of stick which had been serving the purpose of representing man in his various stages, I found that I had won the people's attention. Therefore said I, when I had heaped a mound over the buried fragment of twig—There lies the body after burial, and Caffres think it is done with then; but this book, (producing my pocket-bible,) says, No! Here it is all written down about that dead body! Passing the book round for their inspection; (though of course they could not read a single letter) and adding—the English were unclad savages, like Caffres, till they had that book, and learned from it about a future world! Now, we English know that the day will come when a great voice shall sound from heaven, and shall call each dead body from its grave; and, then, its spirit shall come back, and it will go before its Great Judge, and give account “of every word, every action, and every thought!”

At this declaration confusion seemed to cover the whole assembly! I never beheld such consternation expressed on any countenances; and amid the most profound silence of the craal, the head man enquired; “What! Teacher, if a

Caffre steals; will he meet the person from whom he stole at that day?" Assuring them of the certainty of so doing; we threw out a few hints of the office of The Saviour; and left them to reflect on their concern in that Great Revelation.

Here let me remark that the orthodox Caffre notion of the departing spirit is, that it is transformed into a small harmless snake, that frequents the thatch of their native huts. These snakes are considered as guardian angels—so much so, that if any misfortune befalls a family, or individual, the report goes forth directly that somebody has offended, or hurt, one of the sacred reptiles. Nay, more, I have frequently known Caffre servants say, with the greatest gravity, (when hard-pressed to render an account as to the whereabouts of any missing spoons, knives, tools, or the like attractive articles) that some strange Caffre had stolen them, but that their guardian snake would fetch them back, before daylight next morning; and, I need hardly say, the said articles always found their way back, by the appointed time. From which it is manifest that deception, and falsehood, lurk beneath the pretended belief in the guardian snake. And, I strongly suspect, if the truth were known, the Caffres have no real belief in any future existence; but that, in Caffredom proper, it is merely a convenient subterfuge whereby savages, in their social relationship, are enabled to back out of inconvenient positions, if necessary: when their guilt cannot be long concealed; but which, if confessed, would cost the offender his neck.

We were much struck at something which happened on the first attempt at introducing the Creed to our evening class of natives, at the Umhlali. A dozen, or more, were

all sitting round me and Mrs. M., after tea, beside a log fire on the hearth; and I was reading, according to our custom, sentence by sentence, for the sake of uniformity, from the Bishop's Caffre translation, for the class to repeat aloud, after me. But when I came to the sentence "Wahlupaka ku Pontio Pilato," as his lordship has it, the lad Uncomaas, who had only been in Natal a few days, and had been with us all the time, replied "Wahlupaka ku Pontius Pilate!" On enquiring his source of information, we discovered that when about to flee from the Zulu chieftain, Ketchawayo, to avoid strangulation, or spearing, he took refuge for a time at an accommodation house on the Tugella frontier. While there, Schroeder, (the same missionary that I had the good fortune to meet in 1851,) happened to be passing, and spent a night at the road-side house: where (as the lad stated) the good man introduced the creed to the natives, and used the words "Pontius Pilate," and "Jesus Christ," instead of "Pontio Pilato," and "Jesu Christu," as in the authorised Caffre of Natal. An incident which clearly proves that even one brief discourse, on the Gospel News, will leave its traces behind; and make the path easier for succeeding labourers. A reflection that has since often encouraged me much, when casting a handful of stray seed over the fallow ground of untaught heathenism!—(Eccl. xi. 1.)

Moreover, it is only due to the Caffres of Natal to say, that on receiving any Scripture truth, in which they can be induced to put reliance; after making innumerable enquiries; they themselves spare no pains, and miss no opportunity, in spreading the information amongst their friends and acquaintance. In this respect our lad Uncomaas greatly excelled; and whether on a journey, or visiting at the craals, he had

a word for old and young, acquaintances or strangers, wherever it was possible to raise a conversation. And by the same agency some of the Caffre hymns were introduced into the kitchens of several of the neighbouring employers: instead of the original war songs, in which the natives are wont to indulge over their nightly beef-eating.

In fact, one great object of all missionary work must ever be to enlist the active co-operation of each individual convert. Inasmuch as the force and meaning of any Revealed Truth,—at Home, or Abroad; and amongst all grades of Christians—will always be more clearly developed to those who make a point of circulating that truth amongst their fellow-creatures. Whereas; the person, who never strives to advance his neighbour's spiritual interests, will scarcely value his own privileges, and rarely will make any real advance in Faith, Hope, or Charity! Similarly, the missionary can never be too urgent in reminding the European settlers, and native converts, of their responsibilities as Christians. For, I maintain, whatever may be a person's attainments, and powers, or his position in the Church, or in society, yet that all his professions of faith, and religion, are extremely questionable; unless conscience assures him that he is really anxious to propagate that faith, and that religion, amongst the thousands of perishing souls around him: who need that saving faith as much as he does.

A missionary, therefore, will only partially discharge his duty, unless he constantly instils that important obligation. By so doing he is enabled to appear as the White-man's minister, and the Black-man's advocate. In him the two races, with their antagonistic interests, find a mutual friend, and counsellor. And, therefore, so far from advocating a

distinct class of ministers, for the two people; I firmly believe that the surest guarantee, for the peace of the community, will be found in the division of the colony, (irrespective of race or colour,) into manageable districts; each under the supervision of an active minister.

And so, on the other hand, nothing more injurious to the unity of the Christian population, white or black, can be conceived; than that of a missionary making himself over, as it were, entirely to the natives; as at the majority of the mission stations throughout the colony: without any apparent concern for the neighbouring settlers; or any attempt to promote their temporal or spiritual interests.

CHAPTER XIII.

LABOUR AND INTELLECT—ADVANTAGE OF MUTUAL COMBINATION—A SUGAR ESTATE—MANUFACTORY—IMPROVED MACHINERY—GROWING NEED OF NATIVE VILLAGES—EFFECTS OF THE COOLIE IMMIGRATION—CULTIVATION OF ARROWROOT—MODE OF PREPARATION FOR MARKET—NATAL COTTON.

THE more I saw of the coast district, the more convinced I became of the mutual relationship that ought to exist between the black and white races of Natal. The colonists seemed to represent the head of a corporate body, and the numerous natives its various members. Without European enterprise the greatest natural resources lay dormant—And so, quite as frequently, the best arrangements, and the surest speculations, were utterly frustrated from want of native labour.

I might here observe that the condition of some of the most intelligent and best educated colonists (real hard-working men, too :) might afford a subject for the political economist's disquisitions: such men being great benefactors to the colony at large, as the originators of half the enterprise that exists; and, generally speaking, are not afraid to put their own shoulder to the wheel; but seldom, or ever, do you see prosperity rewarding their efforts: except in cases where they have been in the habit of employing labourers before coming to the colony. And simply for this reason, that such people have little or no idea of managing

native labourers—They either lack patience to guide them aright, or else let their servants get the whip-hand, so as to become more plague than profit. Consequently it is no uncommon thing to find that class (unless in a position to become merchants, or to secure two or three thousand acres) just groping along with one or two natives; performing all the drudgery themselves, or by the aid of their families; and though the richness of the colonial resources enables them to live in comfort,—nay luxury; yet you seldom see them pushing forward, and acquiring wealth, like the man who, perhaps, has laboured himself in England; and begins with two or three Caffres, next employs eight or ten, and finally has work for fifty if only he can procure them.

On looking closely into this matter I discovered that any persons, or families, who endeavour to be entirely self-reliant, will find that the twenty-four hours of the day, under the greatest diligence, would prove utterly insufficient to provide for their own ordinary family requirements; according to the standard of living, at home or abroad, at the present day. Righting the house, preparing three meals, attending to the cattle poultry and garden, educating the younger members, correspondence, mending, making, and washing, securing fuel, fetching water, and the like, will take up a regular interval day after day, and leave no time for getting rich;—to say nothing of the yearly duties, such as raising crops, harvesting, thrashing, and grinding corn, and bartering surplus stock for clothing materials, tools, furniture, glass, &c., &c., the manufacture of which would be quite impossible.

The class of colonists, just described, seem to illustrate that maxim in a manner that never before occurred to me.

Whereas, contrasting such a family's unceasing routine with that of a home artizan, receiving his pound or thirty shillings a-week—We see the latter person's wife and family do little, or nothing, towards the earning part: he himself works eight or ten hours, at one set task, and goes home to read his newspaper, or smoke his pipe, for the remaining hours, till bed time comes; and his earnings, for those eight or ten hours, (thanks to the cheapness and variety of every producible article of daily life in England) are sufficient to find himself and family not only in daily necessities, but also in luxuries raised in every corner of the globe. He could not fetch his tea from China once a-year, or his sugar from Mauritius, or his tobacco from Virginia: (even the bare carriage of any one article would cost more than its purchase at home.) Nor could he dig his coals at Newcastle, or manufacture his calico or fustian; nor make his earthenware, or the like: yet, by the mysterious working of combination, all these things are produced so cheaply at his door, that eight or ten hours' labour at the trowel or the saw will go in exchange for so many coin, and those coin will go through the various retail hands, from one to another, till they ultimately reach the hands of the several producers of the aforesaid articles. Little do the consumers of such things imagine what toil, and anxiety, is expended in the production of their every day articles of consumption!

Thus, taking that common luxury—sugar: how few people in England have any idea of the culture of the cane, or the manufacture of the article for the home market. I will therefore give a brief description of the process, as carried on at many of the large plantations in the coast district.

The reader must begin by looking over a newly planted field: there he will see a number of long straight rows, about four feet asunder: on close inspection he will find the slips, or cuttings, from which the future cane is to shoot, planted from eighteen inches to two feet apart; and, on a plantation where labour is abundant, he will see a gang of natives constantly weeding and hoeing the young crop, as it shoots forth numberless slender rods from the fertile soil.

Next we will turn to a year-old plantation; there the visitor will see a dense mass of vigorous sword-like blades; growing in tufts, on the top of thousands of short stake-like stems, six or eight stems diverging from every root. But without attempting to wade through one of these crops, we will proceed to a two-year-old field; where the hands are busily engaged, with short heavy swords, hewing down the ripe cane for crushing. Here we find the stems varying in size, from an ordinary broom-stick to a heavy clothes-prop, according to soil, culture, or season: which, on being topped off where the unripe part commences, are thrown in heaps, for cartage to yonder puffing mill: whither we will next direct our steps.

Nearing that establishment, we shall be forcibly reminded of the merry harvest work of an English homestead. Cart after cart wending its way up to discharge; while the empty ones go hurrying back to get another load—Caffres singing, bullocks bellowing, and whips cracking, constituting the main difference. On entering the building the visitor will be somewhat surprised to see steam power at full play on the far off shores of South Africa (and he would do so, I imagine, in fifty different places on the coast of Natal.) However, moving on to the crushing floor: there we see roller upon

roller, ever in motion, devouring unlimited quantities of large thick sugar canes: the juice from which falls into a trough, and flows away by an open gutter to the next factory: whither we follow it; after first noticing that the crushed cane, reduced to a mass of juiceless stringy fibres, is cast out of the mill, to be dried for fuel.

We now come to the boiling-house, and find the liquor flowing down the aforesaid gutter into a huge tank; where it is strained and passes on to the nearest copper, or rather boiler, holding some two hundred gallons, or more. Without remaining longer than is sufficient to give it a good warming: it is transferred to the second copper, next in succession, where it is allowed to attain a certain temperature before going into the third, and so on: the first and second, of course, being filled again as fast as they become empty: so that a regular movement goes on further and further from the original tank. At the fourth or fifth pan the boiling heat commences, but still the process of transferring goes on: the scum being carefully removed from all the coppers, as fast as it rises. When the boiling process is nearly complete the glistening fluid is turned into a real *copper*; (for the other boilers are only cast iron vessels) where a small portion of lime is thrown in, which instantly gives a bright yellow colour to the whole mass.

The cookery process completed, we next follow the thick pea-soupy substance into a neighbouring compartment; where it is undergoing the process of cooling, in shallow wooden trays. The next business is that of vatting—in stout wooden boxes, a yard square every way, with holes bored to allow the treacle to drain away. These boxes being so

arranged that the treacle flows into a channel, and is collected in a great reservoir.

After a fortnight's draining the sugar will be found tolerably free from moisture ; but often requires to be spread out in the sun, for an hour or so, to dry thoroughly : before putting up in those matted bags, for shipment, which are seen on the London drays, passing to and from the docks. Sometimes indeed, a little additional trouble is taken : namely of putting a layer of wet clay over the sugar in the boxes, for the purpose of whitening it ; but, of course, the change of colour does not affect the size of the grain, or the brightness of the simple, on which the quality mainly depends.

The reader will here perceive that a vast amount of accommodation would be required for thus boxing the produce of a moderate mill ; turning out its two or three tons of sugar daily. To meet this difficulty two very ingenious plans have been devised ; by which the sugar is made, perfectly fit for use, within a few minutes of its quitting the battery, as the row of coppers is styled.

The first machine is called a "Wetzel Pan"—consisting of a long trough, a yard broad, and about a foot deep : provided with ten or twelve hollow tubular beaters, of sheet copper, so arranged that hot steam flows through the tubes, while they are rapidly revolving and churning the liquid syrup. These heated tubes, on being momentarily immersed in the trough beneath, catch up a deal of the glutinous matter ; and then by whisking it through the air, allow much of its watery nature to pass off in steam : so that a few minutes churning converts the matter in the trough into a very thick resinous looking substance.

From this it passes to the second machine, "a Centrifugal;" being no more, nor less, than a strong cylinder lined with fine wire gauze, (about the size of the largest description of cheese;) which is made to spin on a pivot, like a teetotum, at prodigious speed, by a band from the engine. Ten or twelve gallons of the resinous matter being thrown into this machine, and the driving band put in operation, its great rotary velocity causes the soft substance to spread itself over the inside lining, in a crust of an inch or two's thickness. And, as it continues whizzing round, every particle of moisture oozes through the fine gauze, and escapes: leaving the sugar dry and solid, plastered round the inside of the machine. Sugar thus manufactured becomes very white; but, I imagine, is more liable to adulteration: as flour, or other like matter, diluted into a fluid, and well mixed with coarse sugar, would come out of the machine thoroughly amalgamated with the sugar.

About a half-hundred weight at a time can be made in five minutes by these means; and of a better marketable quality. Indeed, by heating the cylinder with steam, and reducing its rotary velocity, they manage to convert the same glutinous substance, as before described, into the beautiful crystalized sugars now so much in request.

A first-class mill, such as I have here mentioned, requires six or seven hundred acres of cane plantation to feed it: and would afford constant employment to two or three hundred Caffres, if they were obtainable. Few planters however can procure a tithe of that number, unless they have the good fortune to be extensive landowners, (say of fifteen or twenty thousand acres,) so as to draw labourers from such native craals as are still remaining on their estates: in which case

the workpeople are easily discernible from the location idlers ; most of them having a desire for clothing, and European necessities : though, even then, the chiefs send down yearly, and demand from fifteen shillings to a pound from each labourer.

Surely it would be worth while for the Government to form native villages, quite independent of the chiefs, under British magistrates, in central situations, within accessible distances of some of these larger plantations, or near any of the established colonial towns—say in villages of a thousand strong, giving each native a freehold plot of half an acre, on condition of each enclosing his freehold, rearing a cottage, and conforming entirely to British law. Great numbers of young native labourers would gladly embrace any public opportunity of getting free from the exactions of their nominal chiefs—a thing that individually they dare not entertain, for an instant. In addition to which, all fresh refugees might be compelled to settle in similar villages ; after earning the market price of their plots, on public works, such as roads and bridges, or by a Government percentage charge on their earnings during the first few years. A thing that would vastly tend to ensure their good conduct after obtaining their naturalisation.

The effect of these native townships would be to convert the Caffres, little by little, into *daily* instead of *monthly* labourers. Deserving men would then creep up to the more responsible positions in the plantation, or factory, and the undeserving would as quickly find their proper level. The same factory, engine, and plant, would then be able to work without intermission ; instead of lying idle two or three days a-week. And, I imagine, the business of planting the cane,

and manufacturing the sugar, would almost immediately pass into separate hands. In which case the country, all round these native townships, would be taken up by colonists with small means; who, with the labour at their command, could grow cane, and supply it to the mill-owner, at less cost than he could produce it himself. In fact mill-owners would then contract for the delivery of so many thousand tons of cane; and every available man, woman, or child in the village would have the opportunity of earning a decent and honest livelihood, which is quite out of the question in their present inaccessible locations.

Supposing that an experiment were made with twenty such villages, ten north, and ten south of Durban. (Government exchanging land, where the site required happened to be in the hands of private individuals.) In that case we should have a body of twenty thousand men; earning say fifteen shillings a month each, or fifteen thousand pounds a month—And supposing the employer to derive as much benefit as the labourer: then the waste wilderness would by that means be converted into marketable property at the yearly rate of one hundred and eighty thousand pounds sterling: besides which the greater part of the natives' earnings would find its way into the English home markets, in return for calicoes, cloth, tools, paint, crockery, and the like. Whereas, that same body of men, as constituted at present, even if constantly employed, would scarcely purchase four thousand pounds' worth of manufactured goods in the year: five shillings per annum being about the extent of a location Caffre's purchases in the clothing way;—the rest of his earnings going to keep up that abominable trade of polygamy.

The need of such villages is clearly indicated by the fact,

that (since I quitted the colony) the planters have been obliged to send to India for labour, while thousands of unclad Africans are wilfully starving in the locations. A thousand Coolies arrived from Madras last year : costing the planters over twelve pounds a-head for conveyance—all of whom, however, were absorbed at once, at sixteen shillings a month, besides board and lodging. More are required, and more will follow : bringing with them all the vices, and false religion, common amongst the East Indians ; so that unless something is done promptly, and effectually, the Zulu race must necessarily become more degraded, and less in request, until it is hurled back into its native fastnesses, and there left under its merciless chiefs to destroy itself by civilized polygamy* and bloodshed ; while the country all round them is filling up with industrious foreigners, under English masters : who, in self-defence, will be obliged to maintain order in those locations, even if the misguided people refuse to place themselves within the scope of civilisation. This, of course, must sooner or later lead to a collision with the British power, and to the eventual overthrow of the Caffre races in that part of South Africa.

The reader will not fail to observe that a sugar plantation, on a fair working scale, is an expensive undertaking : requiring two or three years, under the most favourable circumstances,

* Polygamy in Caffredom differs from the same thing under British rule, in this important respect. Namely that, in the former case, it results from the destruction of a large proportion of the men, in war. Whereas, under the British flag : where peace exists ; every individual that monopolises twelve or fourteen wives, must necessarily deprive twelve or thirteen other men of any wives at all—a thing that is sure to bring trouble before many years are over.

before any returns are available. Arrowroot, on the other hand, which is the great rival production of the coast district, has the advantage of yielding an enormous return within six months of planting. And, consequently, is generally adopted by colonists, before "going into sugar" as the expression is.

The cultivation of arrowroot is very similar to that of the potatoe in England, when grown in fields of ten or twelve acres. The soil is ploughed deeply, and turned up so as to form ridges two feet asunder; into which small tubers, the size of a little finger, are carefully imbedded every nine inches. The plant itself, however, does not at all resemble the potatoe: the stem and leaf being more like the lily of the valley, and the bulb like that of the iris, only of a very white transparent skin, almost inclined to be scaly. The young shoots appear above ground a few days after planting: and from every tuber a score or more plants shoot up, all round; each of which forms a large separate tuber underground, nearly as large as a carrot.

By the time the crop is fit for crushing, the ground is pretty well full of tubers, large and small.—A skilful ploughman then is required to lay the roots bare, on the surface of the ground, with as little damage as possible. The larger tubers are then carted to the mill, and the smaller are laid by for planting the following season.

The first operation, at the mill, is to pass the tubers through a scouring apparatus; to remove every particle of earth, (sandy soils being preferable, on that account). Next they are ground, or grated, to a fine pulp, in a mill; on quitting which the pulp is thoroughly stirred with ten times its bulk of water, and strained through a fine sieve—strange to say all the valuable matter is contained in the water thus.

drawn off—the residuum, in the sieves, being mere useless husks; only fit for manure. The water freighted with its farinaceous burden is turned into a succession of troughs, placed side by side, one lower than the other; each twenty feet long, a foot broad, and a foot deep: and so arranged that all the fluid passes down trough No. 1, (which however is prevented from overflowing by a large orifice, at the far end, by which trough No. 2 is supplied, just an inch from the upper edge.) So that a large proportion of the arrowroot, (which, by-the-bye, settles very rapidly in water) sinks to the bottom, and forms a solid plaster in the first trough. A good deal, however, flows through the orifice just described; and falls into a lower trough, No. 2; which is gently inclined so as to cause a flow in the opposite direction—at the far end of which is another orifice, as before, where the surplus water is caught in trough No. 3; and so on; till, at the fifth, or sixth, it is allowed to escape; all the precious farina having previously settled.

Every now and then the mill is stopped, and the deposit is shoveled out of these troughs into a huge vat, for refinement; which is performed by repeated stirrings with clean water, till the arrowroot is turned into batter. The best arrowroot sinks fastest; the inferior and scum last. Therefore, when the settlement is complete, the water is poured away; and the upper layer peeled off: the washing is then repeated till it is thoroughly pure; when it is dried in the sun, on trays of zinc.

At fourpence a pound, an ordinary crop of arrowroot will produce from forty to fifty pounds sterling for every acre. But the English market value entirely depends on its purity; consequently the quality of the water used, or a dusty locality

for drying, or even a passing cloud of smoke from some distant grass burning, will often injure a sample, and bring it down to a penny, and three halfpence a pound: that is, to under £15 a ton; at which price it scarcely pays for growing.

In time, probably, there will be refineries established on some of the great rivers; where pure water is obtainable in any quantity; in which case, if the drying process is conducted under a glass roof, there will be no loss from damp, dust storms, or smoke.

Coffee and cotton may be considered as the two other staple productions of the coast district. The former, however, requires five years before the trees come to maturity, when the plantation remains for years. Cotton, on the other hand, is sown, and not only is ready for picking in six months but continues bearing for months and years. The quality, and yield, is also good; but the coast atmosphere has the effect of giving it a yellow tinge—I imagine from the saltiness of the dews rising from a soil strongly impregnated with iron. As far inland as Maritzburg cotton thrives equally well as on the coast; but, as in America, requires replanting every year. The colour of the upland is much purer than that of the coast.

Before leaving the Umhlali I planted about half an acre, in anticipation of the archdeacon's return; but have not heard of the result: the parsonage having been sold, when the archdeacon went to the Zambesi. Another object in planting was to induce some of our numerous Caffre visitors to do the same: to all of whom we tendered packets of proved seed: though, as might be expected, scarcely any dared accept of the offer and of those who did, I never

heard of one who sowed them ; probably from fear of exciting the suspicion of some jealous chief and his infamous witch-doctors ; as referred to in Chapter VI.

An illustration of this happened, just at the time, where a family had planted a crop of cotton with seed supplied by an official. The chief of the tribe to which the family belonged, and his witch-doctors, gave out that no rain would come till the crop was destroyed—and ordered all the cattle from the neighbouring kraals to be driven together, so as to trample down the crop, as it were *accidentally*, without actually coming to an open rupture with the official, and the Government. Of course the chief's edict was obeyed—the crop was destroyed, and a signal extinguisher was put on Caffre cotton growing in that locality.

CHAPTER XIV.

SECRET OF CAFFRE WITCHCRAFT—TURNING IT TO PROFITABLE ACCOUNT
—INTERVIEW WITH A WITCH-DOCTOR—SNAKES—NATIVE DEER-
TRAPS—BEATING THE BUSH—VENISON AND CAFFRE COOKERY—
IMPROVIDENT CHARACTER OF THE AFRICAN—A CHRISTIAN VIEW
OF EUROPEAN ADVANCEMENT—HALF-ENLIGHTENED CAFFRES AND
THEIR BLIGHTED CROPS—A SIMPLE LEOPARD TRAP—CAFFRE MODE
OF FISHING—AN AFRICAN SEA SHORE.

WITHOUT going into all the particulars of Caffre witchcraft, I may observe that it forms a very material element in the maintenance of the absolute power of the chiefs, over their people. As we have seen, by means of it any obnoxious or refractory individual can be put out of the way, quietly, without fear of consequences, simply by attributing some real or imaginary evil to the offender's bewitching influence. Again, a complete science is kept up by the witch-doctors in the properties of poisonous seeds and roots: so that an "Enyanga," as the said professor is called, is a formidable foe; merely as being master of the most deadly poisons in the world. And, finally, the continual disclosures made to the recognised faculty, by the various individuals seeking their paid agency against some stronger neighbour, or for relief from sickness, enables the chiefs, through them, to keep up a systematic espionage over all that is going on in the colony: not only amongst their own people, but also at the capital, among the colonists, and with the neighbouring:

tribes. By which alone can I account for the fact, that the first intelligence of what is going to take place, or has already happened, with respect to the native department and the black population, is generally conveyed to the English landowners through their native servants.

The influence of witchcraft was a subject that our semi-converts frequently enquired into, at the close of our evening services. As far as my private judgment went, I told them that I altogether disbelieved in its power; and put the doctors down as impudent impostors; or worse, as working by poison or other underhand appliances. At the same time referring them to the Bible to show that any influence, if real, must be derived entirely from Satan, and therefore would be powerless over them on their becoming sincere Christians.—(Luke x. 19.) A thing that may be safely, and most efficaciously, taught: as the dread of witchcraft is perhaps the greatest torment the Caffres undergo—It is plainly the device, if not the power, of Satan; and we know that “the Son of Man was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil.”—In fact, we might reflect that as witchcraft was a reality before the Christian era; therefore there may be some ground for the Caffre’s positive assurance of its existence at the present day in those dark regions of the earth where heathenism still abides; which have been so aptly described as Satan’s stronghold.

Curiously enough the Caffres admit that their witches have no power over white people. And were not a little surprised to hear that, in the dark ages of the Church, even the English were subject to the same superstitious influences: the vanquishment of which, by the spread of the Bible, and the power of religion, affords the missionary a high standing

ground ; and is, in the native mind, a convincing argument in favour of Christianity.

An incident that occurred one day, at the Umhlali, proved that such practical applications of Christianity are not altogether without influence : even in remote districts, far from the missionary's immediate circle. In this case, the head man of a family was on the point of bargaining away a fatted calf to a witch-doctor, for the purpose of procuring rain, when a young native, (one of our little congregation) stated openly what the missionary (myself) had taught him ; and advised the head man to consult me, and save his cattle for the future.

Whether in consequence of this, or not, I cannot say ; but shortly after we were unexpectedly visited by a veritable witch-doctor, and a dozen or more neighbouring Caffres : who had great dread of his mysterious powers ; which, by-the-bye, he bragged about in a very off-hand manner. After some conversation, finding the fellow had complete hold over the fears of his audience, I suggested the propriety of putting one of his vaunted feats to the test, on myself ; promising, before all the witnesses, to hold him free from punishment, and give him the best ox, and a half-sovereign, if he succeeded in bewitching me : with the needful intimation that any use of poison, or violent means, would bring him forthwith to the gallows ; as his craal was well known.

He accepted the challenge, after some little fencing about white men. And sedately declared that, as I passed along the foot-path to the beach on the next occasion, I should step over something that would instantly prove fatal ; but, forasmuch as I was a missionary, he should blow with his mouth at the time, and recover me immediately. Curiously

enough, the very next day, while hastening along the foot-path to the village post-office—forgetting all about the Caffre, in my anxiety to catch the out-going English mail, I discovered an enormous mamba, the most deadly snake in South Africa, coiled up by the wayside, basking in the sun, and apparently fast asleep. Pausing for a moment for a peep, (not having a stick), I saw its head quivering for a spring, and happily sprang too; only just escaping its stroke on the back of my head; as a frightened passenger, on a branch road close by, afterwards informed me. If the witch-doctor really had ought to do with the matter; it is remarkable he should have chosen a serpent, above all other means, for the working of his diabolical ends. I did not deem it prudent to mention the occurrence to the Caffres; whose faith in the doctor considerably abated on finding that his boasted powers had for once proved ineffectual.

Generally speaking snakes are far less dangerous than people suppose. The mamba being the only one that wilfully attacks human beings. Its bite proves fatal in about twenty minutes: unless the wound is cauterized instantly, or treated with a strong solution of ammonia. We generally carried a small vial of caustic, in case of accident to the Caffre drivers: who, going barefoot through the grass, thicket, and morass, are very much exposed though very rarely are hurt. An English gentleman was bitten through the heel of his boot, by a mamba, and died almost immediately! Other snakes flee away, and never attempt to harm you, unless trodden upon, or accidentally injured; when of course they turn and bite; but not fatally, if remedies are instantly applied.

The wild deer, on the coast, are still very numerous;

finding excellent cover in the dense plantations of cane. Strange to say, they have a most peculiar fancy for coming a long distance to trample up and down on fresh dug earth. The small plot of cotton that I planted was quite printed over with their footmarks, for the first week or two; and that within a hundred yards of where I usually sat writing, at midnight, by my little oil lamp, in the archdeacon's drawing-room!

I ought to mention that a Caffre caught a very fine buck, nearly as large as a pony, in a trap opposite the same window, just beyond the garden fence. The mode of capture, which is entirely Caffre, is perhaps worth description—as follows.

Selecting a footpath, leading from a thicket to the garden, the Caffre procured a quantity of bushes, and strewed them loosely for many yards on either side; leaving the footpath quite open. After a few nights he found that some deer had adopted the track: they being so suspicious, that the least appearance of an artificial fence makes them cautious of leaping it. As soon as he found the game were familiar with the open gap, he procured a piece of clothes-line of about three yards length; and cut a young tree from the forest, some twelve feet long and three inches thick at the foot. This he planted firmly in the ground, quite upright, in the line of the artificial fence: so that when bent down, by sheer force, its tip end just reached the gap. Then, forming a running noose with the rope, he attached it to the top of the sapling, and bent it down; securing it in that position by means of a wooden pin, working in a notch cut in a strong peg driven into the ground. Next he scratched a hole in the footpath, about two feet square, and as many

inches deep, into which he fitted a square of light wicker work ; so nicely balanced that the least pressure caused it to sink down, in the act of doing which it loosened the small pin connected with the larger peg ; and away flew the sapling, jerking the noose up a yard clear of the ground.

Thus satisfied of the proper working of his machinery, he bent his sapling, secured the pin, arranged the wicker work, strewed it over lightly with dry leaves, spread the fatal noose, and lightly sprinkled dry sand over the leaves—especially over the cord. Next morning, at daybreak, the poor buck was discovered with the noose firmly drawn round the upper part of his right fore-leg ; vainly endeavouring to tear away, but unable to get either of its fore feet on the ground.

According to previous agreement, I paid the captor one shilling for a single haunch ; but forbade the setting of future traps within range of the house, without my sanction : fearing lest an unwary step might cause a broken leg ; as I and Mrs. M. frequently returned from our rambles at dusk, by one or another of the many paths converging to the parsonage.

As might be expected, the Caffres have an intense love for the chase. Their mode of operation is to invite all their friends and acquaintance, far and near, to meet in some particular locality, an hour or two before noontide, when the deer are generally reposing beneath the shade of our dense forest jungles : parties are then stationed at the numerous avenues leading into the thicket, so as to encircle the wood ; all of them being armed with spears and clubs ; and, when every preparation is made, a few men with dogs dash into the thicket, shouting and yelling in unison with the liers-in-wait

outside. The terrified deer rush from their hiding places, to seek the open plain, or some neighbouring forest; but, of course, are speared or knocked down with clubs, the moment they make their appearance on the outskirts of the wood.

Unfortunately the natives are not very particular in confining their hunts to Government land, and much prefer a day's sport on the estate of some of the colonial gentry, where the game is better preserved; for which of course they are justly fined, when the originator of the hunt can be traced out.

Harmless as these affairs were in Zulu times, it is well worth noticing how mischievous they gradually become in a colonial settlement. First of all, Sunday is now the favorite day for a grand meeting, to suit the convenience of natives working on the various plantations: so that on a Sabbath morning the numerous labourers are all impatient to start off to their appointed hunting ground. Again, it is extremely annoying to the proprietor of an estate to hear, next day, that all his woods were beaten, while he and his family were over at the church; and that forty or fifty head of deer had been slaughtered indiscriminately. And, worse still, it induces the young men to engage in lawless pursuits, in the face of day; relying in the security of numbers, or in the impossibility of fixing the intent to poach on any particular individual: as all natives, on the coast, carry clubs and spears in their every-day rambles, on account of leopards.

Natal venison varies much in quality: some of the smaller descriptions being only fit for soup, or stew: the larger game is often very fine; and tender as veal, even after hanging but a day or two. With Caffre servants, the former mode of cookery requires constant supervision; as they will otherwise

drink the soup, and fill up the boiler with water, till there is no goodness left. The only remedy is to add a fowl, or beat up an egg or two, and then there is little danger of a Zulu Caffre meddling with his master's dinner.

I have often been amused to see a party of Caffres scouring a saucepan with sand, cleaning it inside and out, and smelling if any traces remained of fish or fowl, before employing it to cook the flesh hacked from some diseased ox or cow, that has dropped down and died by the way side.

The reader must not, however, conclude that the masters of such men are in the habit of half starving their labourers: far from it, the best fed Caffre in the colony would be as eager as the poorest to have his feast at the dead ox banquet.

Indeed it is one of the many points in which the African race shows itself not yet ripe for self-control: namely that they have no restraint over their appetites; and no idea of making provision for future wants. A Caffre will grumble, and think himself very ill-used, if his master gives him a steak daily; but if he gives him a bullock's head, or a shin of beef, at the week's end: so that he can eat till he can eat no longer, the fellow will be in the height of his glory.

The abject slavery the race has undergone under its own chiefs, (worse even than in exile) has rendered them almost callous about to-morrow's fate; and as long as they can make sure of wood and water, plenty of stewed Indian corn, a handful of yams, and a bowl of milk daily; they are content to exist—their recreation being, as I said, to smoke wild hemp, and drink Caffre beer, or to follow the chase, or a war dance, with now and then a foray on some neighbouring tribe. Still, in many respects, the Zulu Caffre race is a noble specimen of humanity: only requiring a slight impetus to

start and free them from their present state of degradation—to further which is one great object of these pages. I live in hopes of yet seeing the entire African population engaged in providing for its own ordinary requirements: not by any sudden and unhealthy change of exteriors; but by a gradual development; beginning, as some of the wealthiest in England have done, by honest labour, and ending in well-earned independence. Then Africa will possess sons capable of steering a course worthy of a country enjoying so large a share of natural capabilities and resources. And though I am opposed to holding out promises of worldly advancement as an argument in favour of Christianity: yet I felt bound to point out how religion generally ensured temporal as well as future blessings. Thus, pointing back two thousand years, I showed the poor Africans how the English people of those days were unclad barbarians, without any knowledge of God; dwelling in thatched huts, and living by the chase, just as Caffres do at the present day. Whereas, Christianity brought with it all the countless blessings which the English, as a nation, now enjoy.

Such an idea, perhaps, may be more readily impressed on ignorant heathen than on people reared at home, and accustomed to look upon their vast public and private privileges,—their “daily bread,” as the natural accompaniment of human existence. The heathen on the other hand,—often vastly superior in mind, superior in muscular development, and courageous as the Briton, beholds with an admiration, far removed from envy, the singular knack of creating comforts which characterizes the Anglo-Saxon race. The savage looks upon this as part of the white man’s nature, as much as it is for the bee to make honey, or for the birds to pro-

vide for their young. But here comes a staggering blow to his theories about a white skin making the only difference. Inasmuch as he sees that black men also, fellow-countrymen, Caffres of the same craal, *begin to partake* of the same thirst for self-improvement, and domestic comforts, directly they adopt the first elementary principles of Christianity.

A desire for clothing seems to be one of the leading features of their altered condition, with all mission Caffres: just as St. Luke (viii. 27,) tells us that the demoniac, named Legion, who before wore no clothes, but abode in the solitary wilderness, yet on being found of the Lord—forthwith escaped from Satan's bondage, and immediately sat at Jesus' feet, *clothed*, and in his right mind. Nor should it be forgotten that man, in the *first* Paradise, before Satan found admission to his heart, was arrayed in a comely vesture of glory, not made with hands: inferior perhaps, but similar, to that we hope to wear when called from that *second* Paradise, where departed spirits rest,* to enter with our bodies, that *third* Paradise (2 Cor. xii. 2—4) where we shall once more see the Most High, face to face; but at *that time* without the possibility of falling, as Adam fell.

"O glorious hour, O blest abode,
I shall be near, and like my God;
And flesh and sin no more control
The sacred pleasures of the soul."—WATTS.

The only difficulty in the way of teaching that both a temporal reward and also eternal life are promised to those who truly embrace religion, is the corresponding truth that

* Comp. Luke xxiii. 43, with John xx. 17; and Acts xiii. 36 with Acts ii. 34.

every sin brings its punishment in this life, as well as its threatening for the future. People readily forget this; and when misfortunes come, they overlook the acts by which they have incurred those ills; but, thinking only of their supposed goodness, are apt to look upon their visitations as unnecessary in their particular circumstances.

We found this to be the case at one of the larger craals near the Umhlali; amongst some people who had been most regular attendants at the archdeacon's services, and had received a visit from us at least once a fortnight. But, alas, a blight came over their mealie crop; and many acres of corn appeared to have died off, quite from the root. Taking us to see the wreck, one evening, these people enquired—"How is it that we, who have attended God's service so regularly, (forgetting a certain little claim for payment once set up) are thus afflicted just as we were in former times?"—A reply to which was unexpectedly furnished to my mind; namely, of enquiring "whether they had asked God's blessing every morning, before going out to sow their seed?"—A point they had overlooked; but promised to attend to for the future: without which religion is a dead letter, be the professor white or black, European, or African.

About this period a pair of leopards, of unusual size, were committing great depredations all round our neighbourhood. Sixteen dogs were devoured in succession from one single craal. Our own fowl-house had a hole torn in it, large enough for a wheel-barrow to pass through; and the destruction of Caffre poultry was so serious that they brought it up to our place to sell at any price, rather than run the risk of its falling a prey to the leopards.

Having discovered the pool where these depredators were

went to drink, I determined on attempting a capture; partly for the sake of their skins: being anxious to collect some African spoils, as we were within a few weeks of our return to England. Choosing a soft cliff for the purpose, near the pool, I bored a hole into it, somewhat like a dog kennel, about two feet deep. On either side of which two posts were firmly planted in the ground: allowing space between them and the cliff for a scaffold pole to move up and down,—revolving on a pivot, a foot or two beyond the right-hand post. A heavy weight being attached to the far end of this lever, and a strong threshold fixed across the mouth of the little cavern, it only remained to prop it up, and suspend a tasty bait at the far end of the apparent kennel: which, on being seized, would instantaneously disengage the lever, and cause it to fall across the loins of the intruder: crushing it, of course, from being so close up to the hinge, or pivot.

No success attended our trap during the two first nights. On the third and fourth days unfortunately we were called away from home to a distance: and, on our return, the Caffre left in charge of the house informed us that a man, from one of the craals, had been caught and badly hurt, while attempting to steal the bait: a most unlikely thing, as the bait consisted merely of the heads, legs, and pinions of a dozen fowls; all strung up in a bunch: besides that I had carefully warned the natives all round. However, I thought it right to search for the wounded man, if there was one, and sent information to the magistrate; but quickly found that the tale was a pure fabrication. And, on going to the trap, discovered the leopard's hair on the lever; with unmistakable traces on the ground close by, where the process of skinning the animal had taken place. I need hardly say that

our own Caffres' relatives were the thieves—and within a week the whole family were decked out in strips of beautiful skin, the head man having a necklace composed of the teeth and claws. The fellow leopard was shot a day or two later by some hunters. The Caffres were so pleased with the simplicity of the new trap that they said it would thenceforth be generally adopted for the smaller leopards, which are very numerous.

While on the subject of trapping and catching, I might mention the native way of taking fish along the coast: though, I ought to mention, not for their own use; as they never eat it. Their mode of proceeding is very unsportsmanlike—Caffre fashion, that is, by the use of a poisonous root, called "Yozaan"—a coarse-looking wild sweet-pea, said to belong to the *coculus indicus* species: and growing abundantly all over the colony. A small handful of roots, just bruised with a stone, is taken to any large pool left by the receding tide, and dipped in and out a few times; in order to rinse a little of the milky substance out of the fibres. In a few minutes numerous fish, of the rock-cod, mullet, conger-eel, and other varieties, begin to make their appearance from under the ledges of rock: coming to the surface, and playing about in a half-unconscious state. If immediately taken out they may be eaten; but if left to die, or even left for any time in the poisoned water, they turn bad immediately.

In catching crawfish a different plan is adopted, namely, of procuring a "cat-fish," (which preys on the former,) and pushing it under a ledge of sunken rocks: this has the instant effect of routing all the previous occupants: the Caffres spearing them with barbed assegais as they make

their appearance. Sometimes, when a cat-fish is unobtainable, a Caffre will watch for the tips of the crawfish's horns, projecting from under a ledge of rocks; and will hold the feelers with one hand, while he gripes the fish with the other, and drags it out; but there is great danger in so doing, from conger-eels; which seize the fingers, and cut the flesh off as with a razor. One or two of the old Caffre women, who were in the habit of catching and selling these fish, got seriously wounded; and of course came to the missionary to be strapped up. After which we introduced a more simple process; namely of enticing the fish from under the reef by means of an oyster attached to a string, holding a spear ready to secure it directly it rushed out to seize the bait.

Of mussels, and oysters, there is an endless supply, on all the rocks within reach of high-tide. The only drawback being that they are immovably attached to the rock: and therefore must be eaten as opened with hammer and chisel, or else taken up in a bottle for sauce and patties. Whenever we required a holiday, we had only to take a Caffre with the kettle, and some provisions, down to some cool nook, under a cliff, by the verge of the Indian Ocean; and there enjoy, fruit, flowers, fish, and scenery to the heart's content.

By-the-bye, the home Government ought to insist on a landmark of some description being immediately placed on the bold headland, lying some twenty miles north of the Durban Bluff. Even captains familiar with the port are frequently mistaking it for the Bluff; and run quite close up before discovering their error. And such is the nature of the sharp shelving reefs, at that part of the coast, just under low water, that any vessel, or boat, would be instantly torn

to atoms, if once entangled among the breakers: exposed to the never-ceasing swell, and rapid set of the current.

The small sandy bay, (Drummond's) immediately north of this headland, was once talked of as available for shipment of the coal, which abounds close by within a few feet of high water; but I question whether the swell would render the anchorage sufficiently safe, as the smallness of the bay would compel the vessel to ride with only a short cable out. The projected railway to Verulam would be more likely to open up these coal-mines, at some future period, when the present abundant supply of wood has given way to the extraordinary demands made upon it for the sugar factories.

I might observe, that Durban is the only port yet opened for shipment of produce to England. The mouth of the Uncomaas River, however, forty miles nearer the Cape, and several others, have small inlets capable of admitting coasting vessels: so that, ere long, we may hope to see numerous smaller ports along the coast; which will be a great boon, in transmitting heavy produce to Durban, as well as affording an opportunity of opening fisheries along the coast: where, on a sunny day, the water is sparkling far out to sea with the gambols of the finny tribes. To say nothing of the circle of civilized life that always radiates from every fresh centre of commerce; and would immediately result from half-a-dozen new coast townships.

CHAPTER XV.

SCRIPTURAL ILLUSTRATIONS FOR MISSION WORK—GRATITUDE AMONGST AFRICANS—OXEN AND THEIR OWNERS—ZULU TRADING—CONDITION OF THE INDEPENDENT ZULUS—MONARCHIAL BEES AND REPUBLICAN ANTS—COLONIAL PARLIAMENTS—EFFECTS OF TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

SHOULD these pages fall into the hands of any one intending to become a missionary to the heathen, I should strongly advise him to purchase a set of Scriptural prints, or an illustrated Bible, before entering on his arduous undertaking. His calling will necessarily lie amongst people who can neither read nor write; who, moreover, have no Bibles to refer to; consequently, the picture not only helps to make up for deficiencies in explaining himself thoroughly, in a half-known language, but also produces an impression on the mind which will serve to recall the sacred lesson long after it is first delivered. For which reason, I imagine, pictures, and painted windows, were so much in vogue in the English Church of olden times; when the services were performed in a language barely understood by the congregation, and the Scriptures were comparatively beyond the reach of the laity.

We much regretted that we did not take out one of those valuable works. In the colony, of course, such a thing could not be procured; and, unless we had had a good supply of children's tracts, with small Scripture woodcuts,

(for distribution among the families of the poorer class of settlers,) we should have been very much crippled in our evening Caffre class work. It was a pretty sight to watch one of the little penny books being handed round from one to another; and to hear the explanations the more intelligent ones gave to their next neighbours—eagerly peering over the shoulders of the fortunate individual who held the open picture.

This reminds me of a little incident that occurred at the Umhlali, after we had been there some months; when many of the working Caffres had learned to pray for any relative that was dangerously ill, and also to assemble for prayer and singing during the brief evening thunderstorms. On the particular occasion, several of these black visitors came skeltering in from an adjacent arrowroot estate, one summer's afternoon; and, as the tempest continued longer than usual, they began examining the pictures, from the Illustrated London News, with which we had papered the walls of one room. Amongst others there was a group of many of the most distinguished personages in Europe. These they canvassed, one by one; and, merely from the expression of countenance, arrived at a tolerably fair estimate of their respective public characters.

I have heard it said that the Caffre race is utterly devoid of *gratitude*: perhaps there is a tendency that way; and, no wonder; when we consider the cruelty and oppression which Caffres show towards their own inferior kinsmen, in every grade of life, from the chief to the veriest bondservant. I am not speaking now of the natives beyond British rule; (of whom I will say a little presently,) but of our own Zulus in Natal. From first to last these people exact from their

inferiors, and yield to their betters, quite a slavish subserviency. They have no idea of *making a request*; it is always an absolute command, with "Chicha!" (Be brisk!) or some such authoritative adjunct. Consequently there is little scope for rendering obligations, and as little opportunity of fostering a spirit of gratitude, amongst themselves.

Towards all steady straightforward Europeans, however; especially towards Christian masters and mistresses; Caffre servants quickly display an attachment very much akin to gratitude. (Liable, I admit, to bursts of passion.) Thus, in most cases, we find Caffre servants as jealous of their master's reputation as of their own. If he is wronged or injured, by any other than one of their own clan, his servants are at least as indignant as he is. Or, if he is making money, none rejoice more than his Caffre servants. Yet, for any little trifling offence, those same fellows would be ready to vent their direst spite.

On one or two occasions I have specially noticed real gratitude displayed in minor matters. I remember a very pleasant Caffre, who lodged some time in our kitchen, while engaged in private business; who, one day discovering a nest of wild honey, brought it to Mrs. M. for a present. I have also known him and others water our choice plants in the garden, when we have been unavoidably absent; and other like things. Again, one of our coast servants, being an eldest son, had frequent presents of "amarsa," or fermented milk, from his mother's *craal*: but seldom did he fail to bring his calabash in, and offer it to us, before touching it himself. The same youth, on one occasion, accompanied us and a party of colonists on a pic-nic excursion.

sion to the sea-shore; and, by the way, spied a brilliant crimson martingola, full ripe, the size of a small egg, dangling from the topmost bough of an intricate thicket; but fearing lest some of the party would long for the fruit, if he gathered it then, the poor fellow waited for an opportunity of bringing it hastily when Mrs. M. was momentarily alone; and darted off, delighted with his exploit. The same desire to show a kindly feeling displayed itself in the collection of the wild flowers: for, knowing how much we prized the beautiful productions of that favoured clime, some or other of the Caffres were continually bringing us choice bulbs, or a handful of peculiar specimens.

That the growth of gratitude depends, in a great measure, on the ordinary treatment experienced might almost be deduced from the disposition of the stubborn ox. Our pair of draught cattle, once so intractable, had now become so thoroughly domesticated that they would not let us pass their stalls without a friendly low of recognition: moreover, on the Sunday, they have occasionally trotted off with me, Mrs. M., and the cart, without any leader, or rein, over to our afternoon service, eleven miles distant; and when, at our departure from the colony, they changed hands, and we had not seen them for a week or two, it was an agreeable surprise to find the pair on the Durban grazing land, and to see them quit the herd to come across and have their heads rubbed as formerly.* Yet, let me add, to the very last they retained a decided aversion to the Caffres, who are cruel to all dumb animals; and very frequently were visited with a severe kick, or a poke, in return for their harsh treatment.

* Isa. i. 3.

By-the-bye, the good qualities of these two oxen had earned for them quite a reputation all over the coast district; and well they deserved it; for, on one occasion, while journeying with them, without a Caffre, we came suddenly upon a heavily-laden Zulu trader's waggon, with fourteen oxen, that had been delayed at a muddy brook for twenty-four hours: the hind wheels being axle-deep in the stiff clay, and immovable. Two very gentlemanly persons came across, when I pulled up, and asked for the loan of our pair to put in front of their fourteen. That, however, I declined as ours would not have stood flogging; but offered to extricate their waggon, if they would allow it, in our own fashion, as we frequently had managed the cart under similar circumstances: namely, by hooking a chain to the upper part of the imbedded wheels, and yoking our oxen to the chain; by which means a powerful lever is obtainable. At the signal Doontz Marêe!—Doontz Zuland! the wheels slowly revolved, and were clear of the mud; but at the moment our tackle gave way—owing to the jib of the half-trained team, and the turning of the wheel, so that the vehicle slowly rolled back into its old position. However, the second attempt was more successful, and in five minutes the waggon was safely landed on the grassy plain.

Zulu trading, in the independent country, is a very favorite pursuit with young men of a superior class. There is good shooting, and an enormous return on such articles as knives, Caffre picks, hatchets, beads, and blankets. Cattle and sheep are there bartered away to the trader for goods that have cost a mere trifle in the Durban market: and, after a journey of only three or four days, the sheep and kine are saleable for cash in the British colony. Latterly, also, there have

been some large fortunes made in bullocks' hides in that locality—the natives having slaughtered and eaten their herds to save them from the lung sickness ; and, no doubt, have disposed of the hides of those that fell under the disease. Ivory and karosses are also largely procured ; and beeswax, palm oil, cotton and gum, might be had in large quantities ; if only the native chiefs could be induced, (or compelled,) to forego their present state of internal strife, and attend to the real interest of their people.

It is worthy of notice that notwithstanding the number of English traders constantly roaming amidst those disturbed districts and people ; yet seldom, or ever, do they meet with any ill-usage. Very many of the traders die, or little short of it, from the Zulu fever ; which is very prevalent in that neighbourhood, (or rather on the coast, and wooded lands) towards the close of the summer months : indeed I suspect that the coast districts of Natal are subject to a mild form of the same complaint, during the months of January and February : owing, no doubt, to the innumerable swamps and jungles, at the mouths of the many little streams that flow into the ocean. This ought not to be, nor will it remain so long, as there is a fall of at least two hundred feet to the ocean in the first mile from the beach : in fact, a rate of a halfpenny per acre, on the coast land, would effectually drain every swamp within thirty miles of the sea ; and materially benefit the various sugar plantations.

Returning to that portion of the Zulu country still under native rule : I might observe that bloodshed never ceases in that populous region. There is always an "Impi," (or army,) preparing for an attack on some neighbouring district ; or else a desolating warfare with the tribe of one of the

dependant chiefs; and latterly between the adherents of Ketchawayo and those of his royal brothers. Extermination is the order of the day, in this internecine strife; and, but for the refuge afforded by the colonial frontier river, Tugella, tens of thousands would annually perish. After the last great battle, it is said that the rivers floated the dead out to sea in such numbers that the coast of Natal was covered with corpses; on which the leopards and vultures fed for a length of time. To add to the misery of the unfortunate Zulus, famine (brought on by civil war) induced pestilence; and, during the period that we were at the Umhlali, the people over the frontier were dying by thousands, so that there were none to bury them. O, that our native department had done its duty during the last ten years; for, in that case, our refuge Zulus would have been as content, and industrious, as the agricultural population of an English home county. The very people who now are living like savages in our locations would then have been in a position to employ labourers: consequently they could have absorbed any amount of fresh hands from the unsettled country beyond the frontier; till the fighting chiefs were reduced to the alternative of staying their cruel game; or else of transferring their people, and ultimately their remaining territory, to the British authorities. Such must ultimately be the case, if ever our refugees become Christianized and civilized. And from that we may hope to see the wave extend, in progressive circles, till Africa once more becomes one of the great empires of the world.—“The Morian’s land (land of the Moors?) shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.”*

* Psal. lxxviii. 31; Isa. xix. 18; Isa. xlv. 14.

The African shores possess two little industrious races, numberless almost as the sand, each of which might teach a practical lesson to Afric's indolent sons; and perhaps to the world's more civilized families; I mean the Bee and Ant. The former, in its wild state, abounds all over the colony. A hollow tree, a cleft in the rock, or a deserted jackal's den, or the burrow of some smaller animal, suffices for their unpretending hive. Thither they build their waxen cells, and there lay up delicious treasures, till betrayed by the tittering note of their treacherous spy, the honeybird; which, though unable to storm the citadel itself, yet leads the roaming Caffre to the spot; and finds abundant spoil in the refuse comb left behind by the ruthless captor. The natives have a superstition that unless they fee the honeybird, with a choice piece of comb, it will never point out another nest.

The ants, on the other hand, equally numerous, and not less industrious, rear up vast cities in caverns wrought entirely by their never-wearing energy; they make their comb very like that of the bee; except that the material is well wrought clay instead of useful wax; from early morn, till late at night, their forces go out by troops to gather stores for their own winter's use; not, however, from the sweet dewdrops of the waving flowers; but from the farmer's granary, or from the well picked bones of dead beasts and birds, or from like refuse; and, I need hardly add, their stores are useless to the human family: nay, rather, that to gather them they inflict the greatest injury on man's labour by undermining his abode, and consuming the timber of his dwelling.

And, mark this; whereas the busy bees are a thorough monarchy; the ants are a noted republic! (Prov. vi. 6, 7.) The wealth and toil of the one, like that of our own indus-

trious empire, affords comforts and luxuries to the human family at large: while the labour of the republican is all for self, and self-aggrandisement; professing to glory in absolute freedom we invariably find republican nations the greatest supporters, if not the advocates, of slavery and oppression.

This leads me to say a word on the political constitution of the South African Colonies; and indeed of the colonial empire at large. A few year since the various dependencies were considered merely as fields for fortune making: where men might go out, in their young days, with their pounds, and return home, in after life, with their thousands.

There was nothing in colonial life to induce men, who had acquired a fortune, to settle down and adopt the scene of their labours as their future home. They were excluded from all voice in the public administration of affairs; and there was no opportunity for talent, or wealth, to acquire that influence over the multitude which naturally belongs to superior minds, and enlarged resources. Consequently, when men arrived at a certain degree of wealth they transferred themselves, and their gains, to the mother country; to live in luxurious idleness, or to obtain a seat in the Home Parliament; and, at their death, bequeathed their foreign plantations and estates to those who knew little or nothing of the colonies, beyond the arrival of their dividends.

The masterly project of granting colonial parliaments to the respective settlements quite rectified this great evil. It has opened an unbounded field for the flight of hopeful ambition. And many a one who commands the respect and attention of his fellow-colonists, and is a leading man in every public project, can now look forward to holding a seat in the Colonial Parliament: whereas, in England, he knows

that he would be put quite in the back ground for many years to come ; if indeed he ever aspired to political honours. The natural effect of which is to make men more careful of their public reputation while amassing wealth ; and also to regard themselves as part and parcel of the community : instead of being mere birds of passage.

A great difficulty, however, arises in a colony, like Natal, where ten to one of the population are blacks. How are these black people to be represented in parliament ? Some few rash philanthropists say—O, make no difference between a black and white skin ; but give them each a vote. It is needless to expose the absurdity of such a proposition. Others advocate the giving of a vote to every native (missionary Caffre of course) who clothes, and possesses property to the value of thirty pounds sterling. But, that would give any single missionary the power of swamping all the white people's votes in his county : inasmuch as his Caffres would be guided entirely by their missionary. In fact, men but recently delivered from absolute slavery cannot possibly have any idea of the meaning of a vote ; and will not, for the next twenty years to come. Even amongst the Dutch, at the first origination of colonial parliaments, it was reported and believed that the registration of voters was a prelude to inoculation for the small-pox !

It appears to me that the only solution of this problem is to make a test for a black man's vote ; and that reading and writing in English, freehold property to a small amount—say ten pounds a-year, the renunciation of polygamy and chieftaincy, and the non-conviction before a magistrate, for five years previously, should be the only condition on which a Caffre's vote could be recorded.

For my own part, I do not think the Caffres would fare ill if left to the management of our Colonial House of Representatives : most assuredly they would be much more secure from arbitrary treatment than under a solitary irresponsible individual, as at present. Anyhow it would be better to avoid all chance of harsh legislation, by making it necessary for all enactments, respecting the natives, to undergo the investigation of a London special committee, before becoming law. The former objection, to such a course, is now quite done away by the telegraph. A few years since, a whole colony might have been starved, or massacred, while the law for their relief, or protection, was on its homeward passage for royal sanction ; but now that we may anticipate communication with those distant possessions by means of electricity, the case is altogether different ; and a message, with its reply, will be able to pass backwards and forwards in less time than was recently occupied from Scotland to London.

CHAPTER XVI.

COLONIAL CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS—NIGHT JOURNEY TO BAPTIZE AN INFANT—VISIT TO NEW GELDERLAND—A GERMAN WEDDING—USE OF THE CAFFRE KNOBKERRY—ALLIGATOR TALES—THREATENED DISTURBANCES—CHRISTMAS AND CAFFRE PREDICTIONS—FAREWELL ADDRESS TO COLONISTS—RELIGIOUS TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

PEOPLE in England, who live within sight of the church steeple, or at all events within the sound of the village bells, are apt to under-estimate the religious privileges thus handed down from their forefathers. Remove those people, with their households, and families, to one of our ordinary, outlying, colonial farms, and make them sole proprietors of the hills and valleys, for miles all round. Leave them day by day in solitude, without a neighbouring homestead within sight—Cut them off from the bustle of business, or from pleasures of social intercourse; and they will then begin to feel that a church, or a school, within reach is rather more than a *convenience*!—That it is *worth something* merely to have a minister at hand, in times of sickness, without the need of sending forty or fifty miles to secure his attendance; to say nothing of calling in a strange clergyman in the event of a funeral, or to baptize a dying child, or perhaps to perform the wedding ceremony for some of the grown-up members of the family. And it is only due to colonists, so situated, to say that they invariably show their appreciation of a resident minister, within easy access, by making their

homes his home, and their table his table, and their little ones his little ones, whenever business or accident brings him near their doors.

The district under my temporary charge contained little less than five hundred square miles : with a white population of about a thousand souls : scattered in every direction far and wide. And though the healthiness of the colony, and the condition of the inhabitants, made the weekly duty less arduous than amongst an equal population in England ; yet there was always something going on requiring the presence of a clergyman.

Of course in a wide spread district, of that description, the means of education are necessarily very inferior, and worse still—very scarce. In many cases the homestead may be pitched half a day's ride, (often fifty or sixty miles) from any church or school. Heat, and rain, alike prevent children from attending regularly for instruction. Consequently the daily drudgery of the alphabet, and tables, and so on, has to be performed by mothers themselves, or by their white attendants, till the children become old enough to know the value of education. And at that stage a missionary, if so inclined, may often lend a friendly hand, without lowering his calling.

While at the Umhlali, I and Mrs. M. devoted two hours, twice a-week, to this purpose ; allowing young men, boys, and girls, to come gratuitously ; whenever they could make it convenient to do so, at our fixed hours. An improvement on which would be to have a well-conducted layman, attached to every district where there is a clergyman stationed : who, by acting as parish clerk, school-master, post-office keeper, and librarian, would ensure a comfort-

able income, and at least twice a-week, (on mail days), would have a visit from the most remote families in his district. The clergyman's supervision of the advanced classes, in such schools, on stated days of the week, would be an additional stimulus.

Sitting one evening, enjoying the sea-breeze, after dinner, a Caffre messenger approached us with a wand, split at the top, with a note inserted in the split: the burden of which was that a newly-born infant was dying ten miles off. The parent begging that I would hasten over and baptize it. Unfortunately the Caffre had tarried on the road, or I should have received the notice a couple of hours before dusk; as it was my own Caffres had finished their work and were away, setting a snare for guinea-fowl: consequently I had to set out with the strange Caffre, in search of our oxen, but happily found them making towards home.

Once off on the journey, we put the oxen to a canter and made rapid progress over the hard turf, while glimmering twilight held out: in order to reach, and pass through, some two or three miles of dense jungle, heavy with deep sand, before night overtook us. A small panther crossed our path, and took refuge in a bush, just in the middle of this jungle; but what with the rattle of the cart wheels, and the chaunting of the Caffre, (who by this time had been joined by one of my own; considerably sent after us by Mrs. M. with an assegai), it appeared more frightened than we were: though by-the-bye, I could not prevail on the Caffre to lend me his club to attempt a capture.

On reaching the sick house, about ten o'clock at night, I was thankful to find the child still living; and baptized it in the presence of a little congregation of praying Christians—

So different from the cold formal manner in which I have often been called upon to discharge the same act of dedication in England; that I could not help feeling an earnest hope the child's life might be spared; notwithstanding the medical man's assertion of its impossibility. That night I spent at a friend's residence, in the neighbourhood, and at daybreak next morning hastened over to hear the news, at the poor settler's sick room, where I found a decided change for the better; and before quitting the colony had the pleasure of hearing that the child was in perfect health. Tidings which gave us the greater joy inasmuch as the parents, on a previous occasion, had shown Mrs. M., and myself, (though perfect strangers) great kindness; when passing their lone farm, weary and almost worn out with an arduous journey—making us rest, while they hastened to get us coffee and some fresh-baked cakes.

On another occasion, a fine middle-aged German emigrant, from the new settlement, twenty-five miles north of our residence, called at dinner time; and, with a very perplexed air, unburdened his mind in the mother tongue of the glorious father-land. To me almost unintelligible, except such words as “Predicator” — “Vrow” — “Fife kilder,” which were repeated over several times, with sundry intermediate expressions—from which I surmised that as I was the preacher, or minister, he sought my good offices in getting married to a widow with five children—(or, as a guest suggested, it might be a *confession* to the effect—“O parson—I had a wife (vrow) and I've killed her! what must I do?” At all events, to arrive at the truth of the matter, we gave the man some refreshment, and procured an interpreter; by whom we made out that the bride was a spinster, but that five children, born

on the voyage, belonging to various families, required baptism; and that the parents were anxious to make a bargain for me to go out and perform the entire ceremony at the earliest opportunity, after publishing the banns of marriage at the Umhlali Church.

Declining the offer of a horse, which the poor people proposed hiring for my service; but requesting the loan of a Caffre to carry my bag, and guide me across country by the nearest route; I started on foot about three weeks later, and traversed a fine rich district of the colony: containing a moderate native population, living by sufferance on private-unoccupied estates.

Some, of the many Caffres thus met with, seemed more accessible than others; but the entire population, just at the period, were rather unsettled: having been led by their chiefs to prepare themselves for some great but secret military performance, about Christmas. Beef eating, and beer drinking, with uproarious singing, prevailed at most of the kraals; and at one large natural amphitheatre, where a mimic battle was going on, the fellows were almost inclined to be troublesome: they having been drinking freely of colonial rum.

Arriving at the settlement, "New Gelderland," about dusk, I found comfortable quarters prepared at the residence of a German gentleman connected with the emigration scheme, under which these people had been brought from Europe. Fortunately, my host was a master of the English language: but for which I should have been unable to gain any information respecting the future plans and prospects of the little community.

Before breakfast, next morning, my kind friend took me

round to see what rapid progress the emigrants were making, in building, planting, fencing, and the like. In fact the industry of the people promised soon to raise up quite a flourishing county; where, only a few months previously, all was a waste wilderness; which, however charming to the eye—with its woody glens, and grassy slopes, watered abundantly by gentle rivulets; was nevertheless quite unprofitable to man.

No work was done at New Gelderland after ten that morning.—And by eleven the happy people began to assemble from all quarters, in full holiday costume of many colours. Old men and burly youths, stately dames and bouncing lasses, seemed alike to have agreed on a day's recreation; and came trooping over from their scattered homesteads to join in the service; and much did I regret that a severe accident prevented Mrs. M. from accompanying me to witness the novel gathering.

The gentleman before mentioned undertook to act as interpreter, which necessarily added to the length of the service; however the congregation, though large, behaved with a solemnity which gave me a very favourable impression of their manners.—All of them remaining, at the conclusion of the wedding, to take part in the baptismal service of the five children. And when the entire ceremony was at last concluded, and *the price of my services* was asked, through the interpreter, they were not less delighted than surprised to find that there was naught to pay—that being one of the stipulations under which I always accepted duty at Natal: namely, that I might remit all charges for my services—as a slight acknowledgment of the daily courtesies received by Mrs. M. and myself, from the outlying settlers in general,

while rambling about the colony on mission work, with our cart, tent, and attendants.

Anxiety for Mrs. M. (whom I had left suffering from a terrible fall,) prevented me from remaining to join the wedding dinner-party. A strong active Caffre having been promised expressly to carry my bag, and to conduct me by an unfrequented track so as to shorten the distance to twenty miles: in order, if possible, to bring me home by night-fall: or, as the Caffre good-humouredly suggested, to do *his part*, if the Umfundise, (pronounced umfundeese) or missionary, could keep up with him.

Free from all anxiety about losing the way, under such able guidance, I travelled briskly homewards, through woody kloofs, and rippling streams. Conversing with any who chanced to accompany us from craal to craal, but not tarrying, as usual, to hold regular meetings. About half-way, we came upon the royal hill where Chaka, the great Zulu king, used to reside with a division of his warriors: from which a distant farm has assumed the title of "Chaka's Craal." A beautiful stream, with a rocky bed, runs near the foot of this regal hill; and there—said my guide, Chaka used to sit on a piece of rock, (pointed out,) and compose himself, during his contemplative moments, beside the silvery stream, beneath the shade of some overhanging forest trees.

Not far from this spot our attention was suddenly arrested by the clamorous shouting of men, women, and boys; accompanied by the yelling of a pack of mongrel native curs. At the moment we happened to be crossing a rounded hill, almost covered with small evergreen shrubs, with larger mimosa, and other trees, at varied intervals. The Caffre had my bag on his left shoulder, and was in the act of des-

cribing his ability to throw the knobkerry, or massive club, brandished in his right hand; when crash went the bushes, right and left, as a noble stag dashed through, skimming along the open glades, and bounding over trifling impediments, with incomparable ease. In an instant, without waiting to deposit his load, whiz went the Caffre's knobkerry; with such wonderful precision, that the heavy circular knob, the size of a cricket-ball, struck the stag, somewhere about the ear, and knocked it over: but apparently with little injury; for, before we could get to it, or the dogs could take advantage of the delay, it was up again, and off as though nothing had occurred.

Towards sundown we arrived at the Umvoti—a broad and rapid stream, occasionally tenanted by alligators: after wading through which, our path lay up a long and beautiful avenue, formed of lemon trees—laden with fruit: at the end of which stood the mission house belonging to Mr. Grout's American station. The missionary, a gentlemanly person, held in deserved estimation by the neighbouring Caffres, kindly invited me in; but, under the circumstances, I was unwilling to stop more than a minute or two: my attendant being fidgety about fording the Umhlali, after dark, on account of alligators—not without reason, perhaps, as an ox had been seized by the muzzle, a week or two previously, in the act of drinking; and had only escaped from being dragged into deep water, at the cost of all the flesh within the monster's jaws.

Some of the tales told about alligator attacks, and escapes, are so marvellous that I should hardly have ventured to mention them, but for the unquestionable position of parties who witnessed the injured individuals. For instance, a Caffre

stooping to dip water from one of the coast rivers, from a stone where I have often done the same, had both his hands seized by a large alligator; and was in the act of being dragged in, when he seized the monster's nose, and bit it so severely as to make it release the hold of his two hands. The party who helped to strap up the lacerated limbs assured me of the correctness of the facts. No less wonderful was the escape of an English emigrant boy, of fourteen, a year or two before; who, on being dragged under water, had the self-possession to trust his fingers into the eyes of his assailant; and, during the momentary confusion of the huge creature, managed to effect his escape, though with most severe injuries.

Quitting Mr. Grout's station, with a present of superb oranges, we pushed on over a fine open tract of land, and reached the "Chaka's craal sugar estate" at dusk: lying on the banks of the Umhlali, some four miles from our abode. Once beyond the river, (then very shallow, but fringed with several vast lagoons full of treacherous foes,) the Caffre appeared more at ease, and slackened speed from thence to our abode; where he arrived in time to share our Caffre's evening meal, and short service—A welcome guest, after bringing me back so safely and unexpectedly; for, it is only due to Caffres to say that they always esteem attention to their master as an obligation laid on themselves.

During the greater part of our rapid march, I had purposely halved the burden, and given my companion a fair share of the provisions, for the sake of disabusing his mind on an Englishman's ability to keep pace with a Caffre. Though, I ought to add, Caffres are no mean antagonists for a long journey; from their light clothing, agility, and

unflinching determination to do as much as an Englishman. A lad of sixteen, who once accompanied me from the Tongaati to Durban and back, (thirty miles each way,) in a little over twelve hours travelling,—the first twelve out and back partially in my little cart, and the remainder entirely on foot; was so determined not to be overdone that when we reached the cart, at sundown, though his legs now and then gave way under him, yet insisted on jumping out and running beside, every now and then, till he dropped down; to convince me he was not really tired: though I confess I was; eighteen miles of the path being soft sand; with a river four feet deep, and five hundred yards wide, to cross and recross on foot.

As Christmas approached, and the period allotted to our African mission excursion drew to a close, it became necessary to make preparations for our homeward journey: especially as the archdeacon had written to a friend, by the previous mail, directing him to have horses in readiness for his arrival by the next monthly steamer. I therefore engaged passages in the return vessel by which he was expected, and took leave of the Umhlali, so as to keep Christmas Day at the Tongaati.

I might observe that we had been warned, by some well-disposed natives, not to be at the Umhlali on Christmas Day; as one of the most powerful chiefs in the colony, residing within thirty miles, felt aggrieved at dealings that had taken place between some unprincipled settlers and himself, and tribe; and, (as my informers believed,) intended to commence a general native rising by an attack on that outlying settlement; while the colonists were keeping their usual holiday. Certain it is that every man, and youth,

capable of carrying spear and shield, was summoned to that chief's residence ; and Durban itself was much inconvenienced by the sudden migration of a large number of the blacks belonging to that one chief, and the tribe of his half brother.

The information was first derived from a well-disposed Caffre who was sleeping at a relative's craal, eight miles distant ; where a body of thirty strangers were discussing politics, on their way to the said chief. The next intimation reached me in a curious way ; for being up late writing, about one in the morning, I heard footsteps pass the garden door ; and of course put my light out, and took a cudgel. On going out I stumbled on a man, accustomed to attend our evening class, with his bundle over his shoulder, fleeing from his employer, and bent on enticing the elder of our two lads to accompany him—A thing I decidedly forbad : though of course the lad was taken with such acute pains, and groaning, next day, that it was piteous to hear him : begging meanwhile to be allowed to go to his craal for medical advice. Nor ought I to omit that a body of warriors, five hundred strong, marched past our place at daybreak, in full war chorus, to join the chief.

As a matter of precaution I gave the information, as I received it, to the leading settlers, and to the resident magistrate. The latter admitted that it was the most dangerous chief in Natal ; (the one in fact who strove, but failed, to incite the Zulus to rebel during the Caffre war of 1851, 1852) but assigned the cause of the gathering to the fact that the chief had just returned from a visit to all the other Natal chiefs, and so assembled his people to rejoice at his safe return. A piece of information that strengthened,

rather than lightened, my suspicions as to his intentions. Though, from subsequent events, I am inclined to think that it was merely an army collected for three weeks' drill, with a view to efficiency at some future period.

At these tribal gatherings the young Caffres are taught to move in bodies, and to throw the javelin right and left so as to cross at thirty paces: and also to hurl it high into the air, like a cricket-ball, "so as to fall on the soldiers' heads inside a stockade"—so my informer suggested. To prevent all this the Legislative Council introduced a bill forbidding tribal assemblies: which however was cried down by the Native Department as a tyrannical attempt at infringement of Caffre liberty.

I need hardly say I declined the kind offer of sending my several informers over to the magistrate's whipping post, for their friendly warnings; which, moreover, from first to last, were accompanied by excuses, for their chiefs: saying that they might only mean to exercise their men, or only to make a raid into the Zulu country (to steal girls;) or only to burn out *two offending individuals* on the coast, and *one in particular* at the Nonoti. The former of which, happily, turned out to be the extent of the mischief: though, I confess, my Christmas Day at the Tongaati was not without apprehensions; and on the Monday following, before setting out for Durban, I was glad to hear that everything passed over all quietly. Sooner or later, however, mischief will occur unless the tribal power is broken up; as there is an old Caffre prophecy that Christmas Day is to rid the African coasts of the white population; and it is worth notice, every Caffre war has hitherto broken out on that identical day. Not that there is the slightest danger to the colonists if they

are on the alert ; as they are now strong enough to put the Caffres down : provided, that is, they are not taken by surprise ; or trapped in one of the Location Passes.

The arrival of the steamer, a day or two later, brought no archdeacon, but the news of his appointment to the Zambesi Bishoprick. However, it was too late for us to alter our plans and remain till a successor could be found for the Umhlali ; having parted with all our goods, and chattels, besides having engaged passages to Cape Town by the steamer—Twenty-one pounds being rather too much to forfeit !

New-Year's day fell on a Sunday in 1860 ; and, as the vessel was to start on the following Thursday, I accepted the offer of the services at the principal church of the seaport town—where I preached my farewell sermon, as I supposed, from St. Luke xii. 20 : hoping to impress on my fellow colonists, of former days, the danger of over-looking spiritual matters in the hurry of acquiring wealth, and in the luxurious habits which most South African colonists acquire : (especially townspeople ;) after they once get comfortably established.

The detention of the steamer, owing to the state of the bar, unexpectedly gave me the opportunity of addressing one more large European congregation at Natal, on the following Sunday. On that occasion I took Proverbs xxii. 6. for my text—in order to say a few words on behalf of the rising generation. Especially with the view of pointing out the grand difference (too often over-looked) between *training* and *educating* a child—Training can be applied to horses and dogs, and to persons almost devoid of intellectual powers ; by which means their energies, that otherwise would be useless, nay dangerous, can be controlled and made subservient

to the welfare of themselves and all around them. Whereas education is merely one branch of training, namely of the human mind : which if carried on, exclusively, to the neglect of the other points in a child's character, must necessarily produce an undue exaltation of its head, and a corresponding feebleness of the many members on which that head depends. Education may create a scholar ; but training, Christian training, fits children for whatever position they may be ultimately called upon to fill ; because it teaches them to keep up a progressive but uniform control over their thoughts, words, and actions.

I had much rather hear a hard-working industrious man express, in questionable English, his thanks to a kind providence for health, and strength, and employment ; than listen to a set of well-educated idlers, expatiating on the economy of social development—Or be stopped by an educated vagrant, who “ begs to apologise for accosting a stranger in the public street ”—or “ to enlist your sympathy ”—and, with pitiful whine, that you will “ bestow a halfpenny.”—Nay worse, how often do we discover that some wholesale swindler, or imposter, owes the success of his knavery to the proficiency of his education, and to the sad neglect of his moral and religious training.

CHAPTER XVII.

QUITTING NATAL—THE HARBOUR AND ITS IMPROVEMENTS—FAREWELL
RETROSPECT—THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND ITS MISSION—THE TRIP
TO CAPE TOWN—FIVE WEEKS AT THE CAPE—HOMEWARD BOUND
—ST. HELENA AND ITS ASSOCIATIONS—TERMINATION OF THE
VOYAGE.

QUITTING Durban, one lovely afternoon, with a little knot of friends, we wended our steps towards The Point: where the steamer lay, ready for her monthly trip to Cape Town; awaiting high-tide for crossing the awkward bar that blocks up the entrance to the harbour. As usual, a large party of passengers were visiting the Cape: some to make wholesale purchases, others for a holiday trip—with some few who were hastening to catch the English mail steamer, at Table Bay. And it is only due to Captain Joss the commander, and part owner, of the vessel, to say that every arrangement, that could afford comfort to his passengers, was strictly attended to; and of the half-dozen captains in whose ships I have hitherto travelled, he is the only one I should ever care to sail with again.

The ordinary channel having silted up, the pilot took the vessel out to sea between two dangerous sunken reefs, at the northern extremity of the bar: where, by-the-bye, we had a slight bump, as the rolling surf caught the vessel's broadside. The breakwaters at that time contemplated, and since commenced, are designed to narrow the tidal entrance; and to

remove it out to sea some hundred yards, into deep water—A plan that I myself advocated, with a railway from the Back-beach to the Berea Hills, for materials, about seven years ago. At that period, however, I was not so well acquainted with the nature of the currents on the coast; and I am now inclined to suspect that the complete realization of such works will tend to the silting up of the inner harbour: unless kept open by continual dredging, at enormous expense.

The need of a refuge for shipping, at that part of the coast, no one can over-estimate. First-class Indiamen, and other vessels—a month out from India, or two months from home, generally pass within a hundred miles of the port; often disabled by a Cape storm, or by a Mozambique or Mauritius hurricane; and but for the sand-bar these vessels, however large, could go into an enclosed inner harbour; where the water is so smooth, that vessels can be drawn up on the soft sandy beach, at high tide, for caulking or other repairs. Besides that timber, foundries, and shipwrights, are at hand, for any ordinary requirements. A thing that could not be said of any other port within a thousand miles, on either side. So that the attempt of the colonists to improve the entrance to their harbour, at an outlay representing about one-tenth of the total value of the landed property in the entire colony, is highly creditable to their enterprise; and merits greater success than I fear awaits the present plan.

The reader will perhaps understand the nature of the proposed works, and the origin of the present harbour, from the following description of the locality. First of all, the prevailing “set of the current” is along the coast, from India towards the Cape. This current is extremely rapid, extending out several miles from the shore. Hurrying along,

with resistless force, it suddenly comes in contact with the Natal Bluff: projecting out some hundred yards into the Indian Ocean, like a vast rocky barrier, so as to intercept the current in its headlong career. And, of course, if this Bluff had done so perpendicularly, dead water would have been produced: or, if it had slanted slightly towards the Cape, then the stream would have glanced off into the ocean. But, as it is, this natural breakwater points up into the current; consequently the vast volume of water rolling against it, glances inland; and, after depositing a deal of sand by the check, flows with diminished but considerable velocity along the inner side of the Bluff, for a mile or two, in a channel made by a small rivulet on its way to the sea. The rush of water thus driven up the "Bluff Channel," at every successive tide, seems to have swept round the upper part of the inner bay, and produced a broad open flat, or shallow: where it loses its velocity, and gradually accumulates, till the turn of the tide; when it rushes through the Custom House Channel towards the narrow inlet at the Bluff, to escape once more to the ocean; taking with it a fresh burden of silt to deposit at the bar, where the two currents meet.

Taking advantage of these natural causes, Mr. Milne, an engineer of great ingenuity, devised a plan by which he secured all the advantages of the Bluff current, without incurring any of the disadvantages. He ran a beautiful miniature stone breakwater far out to sea; so as not interfere with the deeper part of the friendly current that was to dash against the Bluff, and run up its channel: bringing the stone work up rather higher than the level of high water in the inner harbour. The effect of which was that the foulest portion of the current, nearest the sandy beach, was made to deposit

its load before nearing the Bluff entrance : while the force of the swell sent the clear water over the said wall—materially augmenting the holding capability of the harbour :: there being an unnatural depth inside the breakwater ; owing to the rush at the inlet, and the continual washing of rollers over the stone pier. In going out, however, there is no swell ; consequently none flowed over the works ; but all the water rushed through the narrowed outlet, at greatly increased velocity, clearing away much of the bar, and very soon deepening the entrance to the extent of eighteen or twenty feet.

Further, I observed that whenever the bar has been in its worst condition, then a considerable encroachment has always been made by the sea on the sandy beach, outside Milne's breakwater, for a mile or so along the shore. Whence it appears, that if the scour of this back beach had been checked by small breakwaters, at intervals ; and Milne's simple works had been completed ; we should have had an uniform depth of water on the bar by this time of from twenty to thirty feet ; there being more than that on either side of the narrow sand ridge. Whereas, by running a regular pier out, to correspond with the Bluff head, they will lose all the "resolved current" up the Bluff Channel, and also the vast volume of sandless water that flowed over the lower description of work. In fact the entrance so constructed, (if the pier is ever carried to its proposed extent,) will exactly correspond with the entrance to any of our coast rivers, at the present time ; all of which are almost choked with sand, though in some cases sending forth a regular volume of water to the ocean, greater than flows from the Natal Harbour at its most favourable period.

Once fairly out at sea, and on our course for Table Bay, the incidents of our various mission rambles rose up in the memory, and awakened many pleasant recollections—the kindness of unexpected friends, in lone places—the sayings and doings of the various Caffres that had entered our service—interviews at the more promising craals—the beautiful scenery we had witnessed—the adventures of tent and cart life—and the feeling that many, black as well as white, had thankfully received the message which we ever strove to leave, wherever we travelled or sojourned, amply repaid whatever toil or cost we had bestowed. Moreover we could not help feeling ourselves assured of protection, and aid, in surmounting any difficulties that might befall us in the path of duty ; after the many proofs vouchsafed of a guiding and protecting Hand, in the various dangers and hardships to which we had been exposed ; and that without the slightest harm or loss.

Viewed from a distance, moreover, the condition of the Zulu race rose up in its true proportions—two great evils, chieftaincy and polygamy, seemed to have conspired together for the enslavement of a people which, as far as physical capabilities go, any nation might be proud to own. Polygamy seemed like the bait held out ; and chieftaincy, of the grossest form, the yoke under which the people groaned, yet dared not shake off.

To attempt any compromise with such gigantic evils, by rearing up Christianity or civilisation under their countenance, appeared hopeless. The very first question to be put to a convert, seeking open admission to Christianity, at the font, virtually demands the renunciation of polygamy, witchcraft, and all other such like “works of the devil.” For declining to make which promise I myself have refused baptism to

Caffres that had acquired, in our classes, a full belief in the resurrection to life or death ; and in the offer of free pardon in Jesus Christ. Nor can any missionary, in the Queen's dominions, conscientiously baptize a man who openly avows, as all Caffres do, that if his chief bids him rise against the British rule, he is bound to obey his chief, and murder his Christian protectors of former days ; but for whom, moreover, he and all his tribe would long ago have been destroyed, under their original monarchs, beyond the British frontiers.

And, from this point of view, we get an insight to the machinery whereby the growth of the British empire is silently working out the spread of religion over the dark corners of the earth. As the universal empire of ancient Rome was the handmaid to the first publication of the gospel ; so, in accordance with St. Gregory's almost prophetic words, the English, since they became Christians, have become " Angels " (or messengers,) for good or for evil, to every nation under heaven. But for the power of Britain, at Natal, what hope could a missionary have of releasing the people from the slavery in which they are held by their chiefs and their abominable lusts. When, however, chiefs and people alike flee to the British flag for protection from other of their own more powerful chiefs ; (as at Natal) then a Christian government (without any bigotry) can say—Come by all means ; but leave behind these abominations which would bring down divine wrath on you, under whatever form of government you live.

Therefore, I respectfully maintain, the British Government is not only justified in enforcing salutary laws and regulations, throughout the extent of its wide empire, but is tacitly bound to do so under the risk of forfeiting the privi-

leges of its high calling. Mark, I do not say the sword should be drawn to propagate Christianity thereby : far from it ; but I do say that every subject, under the British flag, young or old, man or woman, should be so far ensured of protection, as to be able to renounce any known vice, and embrace Christianity, or to adopt civilized habits, or escape the gross immoralities of heathenism, and openly to assert attachment to the British rule, without fear of sealing his fate by so doing. No government need fear the consequences of such legislation ; for where, in the world's history, can we point to nations, or individuals, that have suffered, in the long run, from a strict adherence to great and equitable principles. Whereas, at least three of the greatest ancient empires have left their record, that when they ceased to fulfil the purposes of God in the world, almost immediately their power slipped away, and their glory waned.

Returning to the voyage ; after a rapid passage of less than forty-eight hours, the steamer cast anchor at Algoa Bay ; where it unladed some hundred bags of sugar, and rested all Sunday ; resuming the journey with a large accession of numbers on the Monday evening. There being a detachment of troops on board, and a number of passengers, on the Sunday I held service on deck to a full congregation ; we also were augmented by a gang of thirty or forty black convicts, whom we visited once or twice in the hold, but without any apparent effect. From Algoa Bay to Cape Town we were favoured with like fine weather ; reaching the anchorage in Table Bay in less than sixty hours ; being one of the fastest trips that steamer ever made from Natal to Cape Town : quite contradicting the forebodings of some would-be authorities, in such matters—that with three clergy-

men on board (Dutch, German, and English) something bad would certainly befall the vessel.

The view of Cape Town, from the deck of a vessel lying in the harbour, is truly magnificent; especially at break of day, when the stupendous mountain, piled up behind the city, displays its vast proportions with most striking effect. On landing, our first care was to secure comfortable apartments, of which there seems to be a considerable scarcity and a constant demand: owing to the call of passenger ships, and the arrival of holiday folks from the eastern province and Natal.

Here we purposed abiding for a month or two, with the hope of saying a few words to the busy population of that important community. The greater portion of whom are so far Anglicised, if not actual English, as to speak our language.

Unfortunately, I was deterred from doing so publicly, for the first month or so, by the unwillingness of the Bishop to grant a temporary permission to a comparative stranger; and when, at a later date, his lordship kindly called, to give me leave, we had taken passages for England; and, consequently, I was unable to avail myself of the offer. However, where there is a will, a way generally presents itself; and so I found something to employ my time during the greater part of my sojourn.

The few weeks, thus spent at the Cape, were at the height of the fruit season; superb grapes, and other fruit, being sold by scores of cartloads, every morning at daybreak, in a large open market square, inconveniently situated quite in the suburbs. Fish and fowls, bread and vegetables, were abundant; English goods of every description were also obtainable, but rather dear: with respect to butchers' meat,

a curious report is in circulation; that in the case of every animal killed by Cape Town butchers (Englishmen of capital), the services of a Mahomedan priest are first put in requisition, to perform some ceremony; in order that the poor labouring population, of that creed, may not be deterred from buying up the odds and ends that are not required for the European consumption.

I need not attempt to describe Cape Town, or its vicinity—that being quite a home port in these days: suffice it to say that, even in the short period of our stay, we met with some excellent Christian people; and considerable courtesy from unexpected friends. Also, during our frequent rambles in the charming neighbourhood of the city, we occasionally met Caffres employed by Cape Town masters: whose physiognomy enabled me to recognize them as Zulus. One sentence in their native tongue instantly brought them into conversation, and with them I left the message we had been circulating amongst the Natal Caffres. One, a fine young Zulu, connected with the Bishop's Cape Town College, was the best specimen of a Christian Caffre, I ever met with—a very intelligent, respectful, and well-conducted man; able to speak English, and apparently sincere in his belief.

Embarking at the expiration of five weeks, in an ordinary merchant-vessel, bound for London, we at length set sail at daybreak one morning with a fair wind; and were soon skimming over the playful billows, at ten knots an hour. Our ship's complement consisted of two other cabin passengers, three steerage, three officers, a cook, steward, and half-a-dozen sailors, and two children: making in all twenty souls. Amongst the sailors, one, a stout young fellow of twenty, had been accustomed to attend a Bethel, or floating

ship, at Gravesend—and gladly seconded my plans, amongst his comrades, for holding service every Sunday, during the voyage. The captain, and passengers, had also agreed to the propriety of such a course; accordingly, when Sunday arrived, we had the pleasure of seeing the entire ship's company assemble in their best attire to join in the service on the quarter-deck.

In the absence of books, we had previously copied out hymns for the day, on slips of paper, for distribution, so that the men had pretty well learned them before hand; and fortunately two of the crew were naturally musical, enabling us to have the chaunts. To some of our little hearty congregation the church prayers were almost a novelty, and to all of us the verse I had purposely chosen for my text conveyed a message of good-news—"The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke xix. 10.) But more especially applicable to those, of whom we had several on board, who openly acknowledged that they had all their life long given way to swearing and vice, till they thought themselves too debased to find acceptance with God.

Every Sunday, during the twelve weeks' voyage, (with one exception, when the weather prevented the crew from joining us,) we had full service, and a full attendance: and not without some manifest fruit, in the universal cessation of swearing throughout the ship. The last oath, I caught sound of, was beautifully reproved by a Scotch sailor—addressing the guilty party, (his officer,) the man said in a half-intreating tone, that no one could possibly be offended at, "*Ye musn't sweer—Mr.*"—which, I need hardly say, was taken all in good part.

Nothing could be more prosperous than the early part of

our voyage, as far as St. Helena: off which we arrived early one Sunday morning, the tenth day from the Cape. But, not having occasion to stop, our swift craft kept well out to sea as it winged its way past the storm-beaten promontories: enabling us to get a fine view of the ever verdant mountains, of that lone island—enjoying perpetual summer, and ever fanned by the strong cool breeze of the south-eastern trade-winds.

As we sped by, and soon left the outlines of its rocky heights—just raised above the far horizon, one could not help calling to mind the mighty captive who breathed his last within that natural fastness. Surely the world-wide conqueror must have experienced, in that sea-girt island-home, a foretaste of the solitary sepulchre—cut off, for ever, from that world wherein he had played so conspicuous a part—surrounded, on every side, by unfathomable depths, as of eternity—he, who had once been wont to rule the tide of war, could thence behold, and contemplate, the raging elements contending for the mastery—hurling themselves, like hostile legions, only to be dashed to atoms against the rock which God's eternal providence had planted in the ocean. Yes! and the brilliant sunshine, and the lovely verdure, would all be thrown away on the once mighty tenant of that vast prison house: while passing strangers gaze with silent awe, akin to sympathy: admiring the vast natural monument that marks the sepulchre of him, who, in his might, caused all the world to tremble at his frown.

From St. Helena to the Western Islands our voyage was pleasant, if not over prosperous; but, soon after passing the latter, all our expectations of an early arrival in the Downs were cut short by a gale of wind almost a head: compelling

the vessel to "heave to" as the sailors express it; (or, to lash the rudder, and let the vessel drift, so as to keep its head always pointed towards the rollers). For no less than a month were we thus beating up and down on the western coast of Ireland: when we got too far north, making a tack down south, and actually losing ground; but this was quite unavoidable, on account of the intense cold up beyond the latitude of Scotland.

To make the matter worse, our coals were all expended and the spare spars, casks, and bulk-heads had all been used up for fuel—Our provisions, moreover, had run out—except some refuse biscuit, half-consumed by live insects—And the crew were fast knocking up from want, and exposure to the severe cold.

To cheer and encourage them, I took Matt. vi. 26 for my last Sunday's text; that being the last day that a dish of anything (except the said biscuit) remained—And, most remarkably, that night the storm abated; next morning broke with scarce a breath of wind; but with a sail, like a speck, in sight. Instantly our flag of distress went up, and by night-fall the stranger, a large French vessel, was alongside: from which the captain procured a supply, sufficient for present requirements.

The kind Providence, which thus relieved us from starvation, which also had so often brought assistance when no earthly help was nigh, favoured us with a fair wind the same evening; and by the night following we were in the chops of the Channel, sailing gaily along at over ten knots an hour: nor did the crew, and passengers, the less appreciate their deliverance from the stormy billows of the Atlantic; from the fact that the rudder post gave way at the early part of the

voyage, and had to be "fished up," as best it could, on board. Thankfully we saw a steam tug make fast her hawser, off the South Foreland, some days later; and more thankfully still did we bring our protracted voyage to a close, at London Bridge; and once more set foot on the favoured soil of happy England after an absence of two years and a quarter to a day.

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